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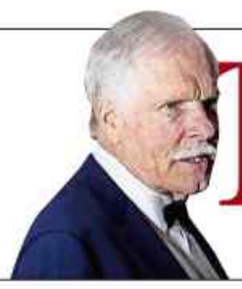
THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



Ted Turner, a brash and outspoken TV pioneer who raced yachts, owned huge chunks of the American West and transformed the news business by launching CNN in 1980, is dead

COME. SEE. COLLECT.

The 2nd Edition of Namma Art Bengaluru, National Art Fair is now open.
Over 150+ invited artists from all over India
Diverse works across contemporary & traditional practices
Mapping Periphery & Centre: a pan-India Dialogue, curated show by Lina Vincent

FROM 6TH MAY TO 10TH MAY 2026, 10AM–7PM, KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH, KUMARA KRUPA ROAD, BENGALURU

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

ನಮ್ಮ art engaluru

Murders in India dropped by 2.4%

Murders in India dropped by 2.4% in 2024, the latest NCRB data says, **reports Rajshekhar Jha**. Overall, 58.8 lakh cognisable crimes were registered in the country in 2024, a dip of 6% compared to 2023 in which 62.4 lakhs cases were reported. Crimes against women declined by 1.5%, with 4.41 lakh cases reported in 2024 compared to 4.48 lakh in the previous year. The crime rate per lakh women population also dropped to 64.6 from 66.2. Crime rate registered per lakh population decreased from 448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024. Offences against the state witnessed a rise of 6.6% with 5,194 cases re-

Olive Ridley makes a round trip from Oman

Six months after an Olive Ridley turtle was released from a Maharashtra centre with a tracker on her back, she has returned to Indian waters after a 3,500km round trip across the Arabian Sea, nearly reaching the coast of Oman. **P 5**

Ban stays on Pak bilateral sports ties

India has decided to continue its ban on bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan, while permitting participation of its athletes in multilateral tournaments in the country, the sports ministry said Wednesday. The policy was first introduced in Aug last year. **P 17**

Bengal bloodshed: Suvendu's PA killed in car near Kolkata

Another Aide Injured In Attack, Battling For Life

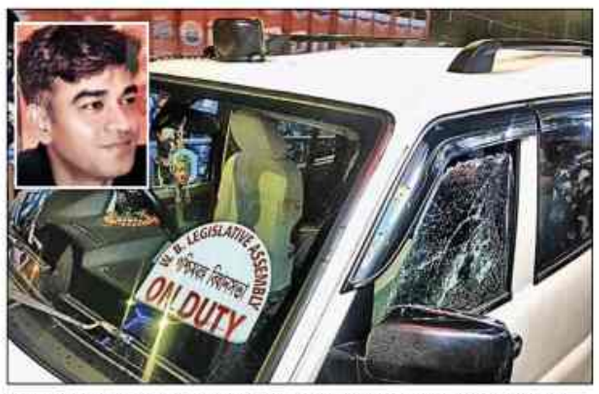
Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Motorcycle-borne assailants fatally shot BJP's Bengal face Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath at point-blank range and critically injured another aide, Buddhadeb Bera, inside their car in a Madhyamgram lane, close to Kolkata airport, around 10.20pm Wednesday.

Rath, part of Adhikari's close circle for at least five years, was headed home when another vehicle waylaid his Scorpio and a gunman in a motorcycle fired multiple rounds at him and Bera through the front passenger window, police said. The victim, in his early 40s, was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital.

The killing capped a day of post-poll political violence in parts of the state, prompting the BJP brass to direct its cadres to restore calm on the ground. Investigators said they were unsure of the motive behind the attack on Rath and his colleague, saying they wouldn't rule out either personal or political enmity. The shocking crime occurred 48 hours after Bengal gave BJP a massive mandate with 207 seats in the 294-member assembly. Adhikari, who retained his Nandigram seat and also defeated outgoing CM Mamata Banerjee in Bhowanipore, reached the site where his aide was shot dead around midnight but is still to issue a statement.

FULL COVERAGE: PAGES 5, 6 & FLAP OPP



The vehicle with damaged side window through which Adhikari's PA Chandranath Rath (inset) was shot in Bengal's North 24 Parganas

PM, Shah, NDA CMs to attend swearing-in

PM Modi will attend BJP govt's swearing-in ceremony at Kolkata's Brigade ground on May 9, alongside the CMs of all NDA-governed states. Amit Shah will reach Kolkata on Friday for a meeting of BJP legislators and pick the new CM, with Suvendu Adhikari leading the race. A deputy CM is also likely. **FLAP OPP**

▶Continued on P 6

TVK 5 short, Vijay's oath-taking delayed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The mood in the TVK camp changed from jubilation to anxiety by Wednesday evening when C Joseph Vijay's party found itself staring at a five-seat gap in forming govt in a House of 234 even after Congress offered support.

TVK sources said the governor insisted on letters of support from an adequate number of MLAs before deciding on the swearing-in date. The ceremony, planned for Thursday, was put on hold.

In the forenoon, Congress leaders called on Vijay at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur with letters of support from its five MLAs. Vijay drove to Lok Bhavan and expressed his intent to governor R V Arlekar to form govt. When there was no response from Lok Bhavan till late evening, TVK's Aadhav Arjuna met Arlekar again.

Meanwhile, AIADMK moved its MLAs to a resort in Puducherry. Unconfirmed reports suggested DMK and AIADMK were in conversation on the situation. Congress came in for flak from DMK for "betraying voters and abandoning a long-standing alliance."

At the end of the day, TVK, which has been talking to parties in both rival alliances, was still trying to find the numbers needed. While IUML (2 MLAs) said it would not support TVK, other DMK allies VCK, CPI, CPM (2 MLAs each), and DMDK (1) are yet to commit.

▶Congress power-play peaks in Kerala, P 6

▶Continued on page 6

Should court spend so much time on religion cases, asks SC

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New Delhi: A nine-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant Wednesday cited caseload to ask if it is prudent for the court to spend enormous time to resolve religious right disputes.

The poser came during the course of hearings on the challenge to the Supreme Court's verdict allowing women of menstruating age to enter the Sabarimala shrine and when senior advocate Darius Khambata, appearing for Parsi woman Goolrokh M Gupta, argued that individual fundamental right to freedom of conscience and to practise, profess and propagate religion can't be annihilated by a denomination's diktat to excommunicate her upon marriage to a non-Parsi man as she is deemed to have embraced her husband's religion.

There are almost 93,000 cases pending with the Supreme Court at present.

IN THE COURTS

- The Karnataka HC notes that **a child's right to travel, particularly to meet close family, cannot be curtailed** merely because one parent withholds consent or obstructs the legal process, **P 6**
- Andhra HC **judge sends young lawyer to judicial custody for 24 hours, ignoring his repeated pleas for mercy**; Bar Council of India & SC Bar Association seeks CJI's urgent intervention, **P 6**
- The Chhattisgarh HC has taken **suo motu cognizance of alarming industrial pollution** in the state's two rivers, says the situation reflects a "regressive state of affairs", **P 10**
- Bombay HC says **law doesn't permit a carte blanche to defence authorities** to foist a requirement of their nod, while upholding a 2023 approval for construction of two buildings in Worli near INS Trata, **P 6**

▶Interfaith marriage, P 9

Jeevaraj sworn in MLA amid recount row

Bengaluru/Mangaluru: BJP's D N Jeevaraj was sworn in as MLA Wednesday after a court-mandated recount declared him the winner from Sringeri constituency three days ago, upending the 2023 result. Jeevaraj took oath at Vidhana Soudha in the name of Sringeri presiding deity Sharada Devi, and in the presence of assembly Speaker U T Khader and Opposition leaders in the assembly and council, R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, respectively. TNN

▶Norms followed, P 3

After Jalandhar, blast near Amritsar cantt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Amritsar/Jalandhar: Explosions near security facilities in Punjab have triggered alarm, with agencies on high alert. DGP Gaurav Yadav said the blasts were part of ISI's design to destabilise the state.

Within three hours of an explosion outside the BSF Punjab Frontier headquarters in Jalandhar, a powerful blast occurred near the Army cantonment in Khasa area of Amritsar around 11 pm Tuesday. Officials said the blast originated from a two-wheeler parked against the boundary wall of the Army campus, located across the road leading to the Attari-Wagah border. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Verbal duel erupts between Mann, BJP

Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann accused BJP of fomenting unrest "on the pattern of Bengal" for the 2027 state polls. BJP reacted sharply, warning that the Centre can remove the CM and blamed AAP for lapses in law and order. **P 10**

▶ISI conspiracy, P 10

MSD

~200 women lose their lives to cervical cancer in India every day.

But it is preventable.

Speak to your Gynaecologist, Pediatrician or Family Physician about HPV-related cancers and disease prevention.

Chat to know more about cervical cancer

A disease awareness initiative, issued in public interest by MSD.

Source: Globocan, HPV India Report 2023
For most people, HPV clears on its own, but for those who don't clear the virus, it can cause certain cancers and diseases
Prevention outcomes depend on timely awareness and medical consultation.
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Bangalore Times

Why Bhavitha's Met Gala debut split the internet

Krishnavataram: The cinematic spectacle gets a global release

The movie premiered at the GCC Gulf Cooperation Council cinema circuit

Summer plans hit 'turbulence'?

As people continue disagreement on travel, are they ready to travel or prefer to stay back? Travel experts share their insights

Cancellations? No. Rerouting? Yes...

Sir MV terminal falls short of AIRPORT-LIKE EXPECTATIONS

4 Years On, Questions Over Poor Upkeep And Services Haunt ₹314-Crore Facility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nearly four years after its opening, Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) at Byappanahalli is confronting an uncomfortable question: Has Bengaluru's most modern railway station managed to sustain the standards the authorities had promised?

When the terminal was inaugurated, social media users compared it to an airport. The glass facade, sprawling concourse, escalators, digital displays and centralised air-conditioning were showcased as symbols of a changing railway experience in India. Built at a cost of Rs 314 crore, the station was projected as a future-ready transport hub that would redefine passenger comfort in the city. Today, the reality appears more complicated.

A reality check by **TOI** found that while the terminal continues to handle growing volumes of long-distance passengers and remains among Bengaluru's busiest railway stations, several aspects of passenger experience have deteriorated or failed to keep pace with rising footfall.

Inside the terminal, passengers complained of poor cooling despite the station being marketed as centrally air-conditioned. Seating shortages have left travellers sitting on floors or standing for long periods, especially those arriving early to avoid traffic snarls.

Outside and across parts of the premises, maintenance concerns are increasingly visible. Parking areas were found strewn with litter, including liquor bottles, while staircases, platforms and walls bore paan stains. Passengers raised concerns over poorly maintained washrooms and inadequate hygiene.

Railway officials, however, insist systems are functional and say expansion works and enforcement drives are under way to address emerging gaps as passenger traffic grows steadily at the terminal.

Pics: TOI, Chethan Shivakumar

FUTURE-READY PROMISES VS REALITY: Several passengers flagged inadequate cooling and a shortage of seating inside the station, while parking areas are strewn with litter and the walls stained with paan

AC OFFER MEETS CITY HEAT

One of the chief complaints is about air-conditioning: Cooling is inadequate, particularly in the afternoon. Several passengers said the difference between outdoors and indoors was barely noticeable.

The discomfort is compounded by limited seating in the main concourse. Long-distance passengers often reach stations well in advance to account for unpredictable traffic and last-minute rushes. Railway officials denied the air-conditioning system had failed and maintained the systems were functioning normally.

An official also addressed complaints regarding non-functional escalators, stating passengers frequently press emergency stop buttons. "Once the escalator is stopped, it requires a key to be used, and only security personnel can operate it," the official said.

645 CASES BOOKED FOR LITTERING, SPITTING

Railway authorities said enforcement drives are regularly conducted across the terminal. According to SWR officials, offences such as littering, spitting and open urination attract fines of up to Rs 500 under provisions of Indian Railways Act.

At SMVT alone, 645 cases were registered during 2025-26. Feb 2026 recorded the lowest number of cases at 22, while Aug and Sept 2025 saw more than 60 cases each, which officials attributed to higher long-distance passenger movement.

₹17-CRORE EXPANSION UNDER WAY

Railway authorities said additional infrastructure is being created to ease congestion. A new concourse covering nearly 875 square metres is under construction adjacent to the existing terminal. The project, estimated at ₹17 crore, will include waiting halls, ticket counters and other passenger amenities.

LITTERED PARKING LOTS AND PAAN-STAINED WALLS

Passengers said the station's appearance no longer reflects the premium image associated with its launch. "The upkeep of the station is poor," said Shivakumar, a passenger. "If you look at the parking lot, garbage is littered everywhere and the gardens are poorly maintained. People consume liquor and dump bottles, while open urination poses hygiene risks." He said authorities should enforce stricter penalties against violators.

— Nyasa Gupta & Abhishek Tanwani

Woman yields to terror threat by fake NIA sleuths, loses ₹2cr

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AI

Bengaluru: A 78-year-old homemaker and her daughter were recently duped of Rs 2.1 crore by cybercriminals posing as officials of National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a "digital arrest" scam.

The accused targeted the elderly woman, a resident of Jayanagar, south Bengaluru, by convincing her that she was linked to a terror case.

The ordeal began on April 13 when the fraudsters contacted her via a WhatsApp call. One of the callers introduced himself as an NIA officer and claimed her name had surfaced during an investigation into Popular Front of India (PFI), a banned organisation, after a member was allegedly found using a debit card issued in her name.

He warned her not to disclose the matter to anyone, citing the sensitivity of the case. The caller then obtained details about her family members, along with copies of their identification documents. The fraudsters further claimed that the woman's daughter was also under suspicion in the same case.

To lend credibility to their claims, the scammers conducted video calls that appeared to show a police station setting. A man identifying himself as Pradeep Jaswal recorded statements from the elderly woman and her daughter, warning them not to disclose the matter and threatening public arrest if they failed to comply. When the frightened victims insisted they had no links to any terror group, the fraudsters assured them they would be safe if they cooperated.

On the pretext of verifying money trails — purportedly the only way to avoid arrest — the accused persuaded the woman to share her bank details. After obtaining information about her accounts and balances, they instructed her to transfer funds to multiple accounts they provided, claiming the money would be returned after verification in accordance with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

Trusting the fraudsters, the woman transferred her life savings and went to the extent of prematurely closing fixed deposits in two banks. She transferred the proceeds to the accused, who further deceived her into pledging her gold to raise additional funds. Acting on their instructions, she availed a gold loan and transferred that amount as well to the fraudsters' accounts.

Between April 15 and April 23, she carried out a series of RTGS transactions to multiple accounts provided by the accused, including those of individuals and private firms. The transfers — Rs 38 lakh, Rs 26 lakh, Rs 31 lakh, Rs 39 lakh, and Rs 68 lakh — amounted to Rs 2.1 crore, effectively draining her savings as well as funds belonging to her daughter and other sources.

Even after receiving Rs 2.1 crore, the fraudsters continued to demand more money. The scam came to light only when the elderly woman approached her brother for additional funds on May 2.

Sensing that something was wrong, he alerted her that she was being duped. She immediately contacted the cybercrime helpline 1930 and subsequently filed a police complaint.

A senior police officer said a case has been registered under Information Technology Act and provisions of BNS, including Sections 308 (extortion), 318 (cheating), and 319 (cheating by personation), at South-East Cyber Crime police station.

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Youth fed 10kg bananas to recover swallowed key

Pavan Kumar Pateel | TNN

AI

Bengaluru: In a bizarre turn of events that left even seasoned police personnel stunned, a missing person case in Nelamangala took an unusual twist: A youngster detained by police allegedly swallowed a lock-up key — only for it to be "recovered" later with unusual means — feeding him kilograms of bananas!

The scatological drama unfolded at Madanayakanahalli police station Sunday, after the youth, identified as Ramu, a native of Ballari currently living in Bengaluru, was traced using mobile tower location data in connection with a complaint pertaining to a missing 17-year-old girl.

Alleged suicide attempt

Fearing action under the stringent Pocso Act, Ramu reportedly panicked inside the police station and swallowed a lock-up key in an alleged suicide attempt.

Cops at the station rushed him to a private hospital, where doctors chose a non-invasive approach over surgery to recover the key and save the patient. What followed was an unusual course of treatment — Ramu was reportedly fed nearly 10kg of bananas over three days to aid the natural passage of the metallic object through his digestive system.

Under constant medical supervision and police watch, the unconventional method yielded the desired result when the key was successfully retrieved through natural means.

While a case was registered against the youngster for his alleged suicide attempt when he was brought back to the police station Tuesday, police investigation into the missing minor's case continues, officers said Wednesday.

Patient's jewellery worth ₹10L goes missing, hospital staffer arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A visit to a private hospital for surgery ended in distress for a couple after their gold and silver ornaments, estimated to be worth Rs 9.7 lakh, were stolen from the hospital ward last week.

Hennur police arrested a hospital staff member and are trying to recover the stolen gold ornaments.

A 41-year-old resident of Yelahanka told police that he accompanied his wife to a hospital on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road on May 1 for her surgery scheduled the next day.

Just before being shifted to the operation theatre on the morning of May 2, nursing staff instructed her to remove all the gold ornaments. She then carefully placed her gold mangalya chain weighing 65 grams, a pair of gold earrings weighing 9 grams, and silver anklets weighing 10 grams into a handbag and stored it inside the ward's wardrobe.

The couple's relief after the surgery quickly turned into shock after the ornaments were found to be missing when Kumar checked the wardrobe around 2.45pm.

With no signs of forced entry, suspicion fell on persons with access to the ward, including hospital staff.

Kumar immediately informed the hospital management about the theft and later approached police.

A senior police officer said during investigation, cops found that a newly joined woman staff member had stolen the ornaments.

She has been taken into custody and efforts are on to recover the ornaments, so her name cannot be disclosed at this stage, he said

METRO WRAP

BDA lodges FIR against illegal site allotments

An FIR was registered at Seshadripuram police station Wednesday against irregular site allotments in Doddakallasandra and Lingadheeranahalli layouts developed by BDA Employees' Welfare Association, where plots reserved exclusively for Group C and D staff were allegedly secured by private persons using forged credentials. Investigators found that in MKS II Stage Layout, a site was illegally registered in 2009 in the name of H Nagaraj, 27. He is accused of claiming to be a BDA employee and using fabricated documents to obtain the allotment.

Graduation ceremony

Bishop Cotton Academy of Professional Management (BCAPM), Yelahanka, held its graduation ceremony for 2023-24 batch on April 30 on the theme, Walk by Faith. The event was attended by group captain Rhonston Soans (retd), head of production at Tata Advanced Systems, Vadodara, as chief guest, Rt Rev Vincent Vinod Kumar, Bishop of Church of South India, Karnataka Central Diocese, along with diocesan officers and principals of other Karnataka Central Diocese institutions. Harjinder Kaur (BCom), Anagha U (BBA) and Sweety Paris (BCA) received best outgoing student awards.

Bowring Institute app

Bowring Institute is set to roll out its official mobile application, which allows members to stay connected with the institute, access facilities, receive updates about events and access information about over 160 affiliated clubs, said secretary HS Srikanth.

Underpass project

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday directed officials to complete the Rs 19-crore Wind Tunnel Road underpass project on Old Airport Road in the next three months. The project involves building a 300-metre-long six-lane underpass.

Two SSLC kids drown

Two children drowned in a krishi honda (farm pond) at Bodenahalli village near KGF Tuesday evening. Tanushree (15) and Karthik (8) were playing near the pond when they slipped and died.

Four trap youth through dating app, attack him & flee with ₹16k

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A casual meeting arranged through a dating app turned into a violent ordeal for a 27-year-old civil engineer, leaving him injured and robbed. Police have arrested four persons, including two minors, in connection with the incident.

Rahul (name changed) from Brundavan Layout in Chikkajala said he had been using a dating app (Grindr) when he was contacted by a youth. After exchanging messages, the youth called him to meet at Palanahalli Gate on May 1. Rahul reached at 7pm and there, he found four youths who led him on foot to a secluded stretch. What initially appeared to be a casual interaction soon turned tense, with one of them engaging him in conversation while another made mocking remarks.

Soon, the conversation turned threatening. The group allegedly intimidated him, hurled abuses, warned him against revealing details of the meeting to his friends and parents, and demanded a ransom to avoid it. When he refused, the situation escalated into violence, and they snatched his phone. One of the assailants brandished a knife and allegedly stabbed Rahul multiple times on his head, wrist, abdomen, and neck.

After gaining access to his mobile phone and UPI credentials, they transferred Rs 16,000 from his account to a QR code before fleeing the scene at 7.45pm. Bleeding and shaken, Rahul managed to call his friend, who rushed him to hospital.

Based on his complaint, Yelahanka police nabbed four persons, including Darshan, 20, Sunil, 19, and two 17-year-old boys. Rahul was trapped by one of the minors. They confessed to have read news about people using LGBTQ dating apps being robbed previously, and they conspired to rob someone. The accused, who are school dropouts, have no criminal past, police said. Darshan and Sunil are in judicial custody, while the minors have been sent to a govt home.

Neighbour records 23-year-old techie while bathing, lands in jail

Bengaluru: A 23-year-old software engineer at a private firm alleged that she was secretly recorded while bathing on the night of April 29. Following her complaint, police arrested her neighbour.

The accused has been identified as Karthik, in his 20s, a native of Tamil Nadu, who works for a firm.

According to the complaint by the resident of Garudacharpalya in Mahadevapura, the incident occurred between 9.30pm and 9.40pm. She stated while she was bathing, she noticed an unidentified person recording her. Alarmed, she screamed, after which the phone was quickly moved out of her sight. The next day, she filed a complaint, expressing fear that the recorded video could be circulated online. "Only one objectionable video was found on his mobile," an officer said. TNN

40 cows rescued from truck

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Police, along with social activists, flagged down a truck at Shivanahalli in Kanakapura-Ramanagara, Bengaluru South district, late Tuesday night, and rescued 40 cows that were allegedly being ferried to slaughterhouses in Tamil Nadu.

Vehicle driver Syed Mohammed was arrested from Mysuru.

Govt warns of jail term

Bengaluru Urban district deputy commissioner G Jagadeesha warned that illegal cattle transport and slaughter, particularly before Id-ul Zuha, could lead to up to seven years in prison and fines up to Rs 10 lakh.

At least 10 check posts are being set up on the outskirts of the city to inspect vehicles and seize illegally transported animals, he said.

Lumps or ulcers that do not heal: Doctors warn of head and neck cancers striking early

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Bengaluru: A 45-year-old man who did not smoke noticed a small, painless lump on the right side of his neck while shaving. Assuming it was a swollen lymph node from a recent mild cold, he ignored it for three months. When the mass gradually grew and his wife urged him to seek medical attention, an ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration (FNA) revealed squamous cell carcinoma. Further imaging and a tonsil biopsy confirmed an HPV-positive oropharyngeal primary tumour.

With a shift in the demographic profile of patients affected by head and neck cancers, oncologists in Bengaluru have urged people not to ignore early signs — persistent sore throat, unexplained lump in face, neck or mouth, or non-healing oral ulcers.

"Historically, head and neck cancers mostly affected older men with a history of tobacco and heavy alcohol use. However, the demographic landscape has shifted over the last two decades. There is a well-documented rise in head and neck squamous cell carcinomas — particularly, oropharyngeal cancers — among younger, otherwise healthy individuals in their 30s, 40s and 50s," said Dr Vishal Rao US, group director (head & neck surgical oncology), at HCG Cancer Hospital, KR Road.

WHAT IS HEAD AND NECK CANCER?
Head and neck cancer refers to a group of cancers that develop in the mouth, throat, voice box, nose, sinuses or nearby structures

WARNING SIGNS
- Persistent sore throat or hoarseness
- Non-healing ulcer in mouth (especially painless)
- White or red patches in oral cavity
- Difficulty in opening mouth (trismus) or reduced tongue movement
- Persistent toothache or unexplained loosening of teeth
- Unexplained swelling in neck or jaw

PREVENTIVE MEASURES
- Avoid tobacco in all forms
- Avoid/limit alcohol consumption
- Maintain good oral hygiene
- Go for regular dental check-ups
- Seek medical attention for any oral symptom lasting more than two weeks

Dr Rao said the 45-year-old patient responded positively to the treatment and preserved his swallowing and speaking functions because the cancer was detected before it spread beyond regional lymph nodes.

"It is critical for younger, non-smoking adults to not ignore painless neck masses," Dr Rao said.

Dr Rajashekhar Jaka, consultant for surgical oncology and robotic surgery at Manipal Hospital, Whitefield, noted that most people rarely examine their oral cavity, which makes regular self-checks important. "Early warning signs include white or red patches, non-healing (particularly painless) ulcers, persistent toothache or unexplained tooth loss. Difficulty in opening the mouth (trismus), reduced tongue movement and pain radiating to the ear are also key symptoms. In some cases, neck swelling may occur if the cancer has spread," he said.

While tobacco remains the leading cause of oral cancer, doctors say cases are rising even among non-users. Dr Vinayak Maka, consultant for medical oncology at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, said, "In my outpatient department I typically see 15 to 16 head and neck cancer patients each month. Increasingly, we are diagnosing cancer in people who have never used tobacco. In Western countries, this proportion is 40%-50%, while in India it is about 20%. These cases may be linked to alcohol use, chronic irritation, HPV infection and certain sexual behaviours."

Doctors emphasise that early detection significantly improves outcomes. Dr Maka said, "Early-stage cancers can often be treated with focused radiation or minor surgery, with minimal complications and very good outcomes."

Art of Living completes 45 years; PM to inaugurate Dhyan Mandir

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As the Art of Living completes 45 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak at the celebrations and during the 70th birthday of its founder, **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, on May 10 at the Art of Living International Center on Kanakapura Road.

The PM will inaugurate the newly constructed Dhyan Mandir (meditation hall) along with year-long projects focussing on on mental well-being, rural development, nature conservation and social transformation.

Talking about the journey, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said: "The sign of a healthy society is to see a smile on every face. That is the goal we have been working toward for 45 years."

Where it all started

Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri, the Art of Living has grown into a global, volunteer-driven humanitarian and educational organisation.

Born in Papanasam, Tamil Nadu on May 13, 1956, Sri Sri started reciting the Bhagavad Gita at an early age, showing an inclination towards spirituality.

By 17, he graduated in modern physics, blending science with spirituality. During a 10-day period of silence, he developed Sudarshan Kriya, a breathing technique now practised globally.

Over the past four decades, Art of Living has expanded to over 180 countries, with a network of 37,000 programme leaders and more than a million volunteers. Its initiatives include rehabilitation programmes for victims and perpetrators of violence, including former militants in regions such as Kosovo, Iraq and India. His work has been recognised with the Padma Vibhushan and several international civilian honours.

In education, the organisation runs over 1,300 free schools in rural and tribal areas, benefiting more than one lakh children. Vocational training programmes have reached over 4.7 lakh youth across India. Environmental initiatives include rejuvenation of over 75 rivers and large-scale tree plantation drives, while prisoner rehabilitation programmes have impacted over 8 lakh inmates globally.

Additionally, its campaigns on public ethics, anti-corruption, women's empowerment and mental well-being have mobilised millions.

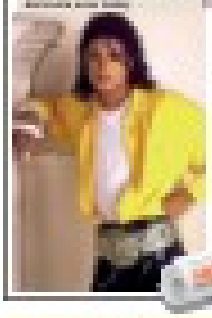
The Art of Living's world culture festivals have been held in cities including Bengaluru, Berlin, New Delhi and Washington DC. Sri Sri also founded International Association for Human Values (IAHV) in Geneva in 1997.

A global meditation for world peace, led by Sri Sri and open to all, will be held on May 13 and live-streamed worldwide.

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Michael Jackson tops global charts, beats current pop stars

No financial settlement, as Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni's case continues



FIR filed against Rakesh Mashkel over claims of caste-based abuse

'Travellers must prioritise protection against cancellation'

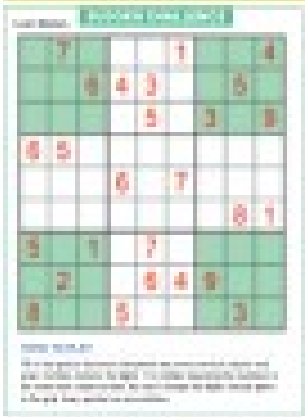
'Travellers must remember that preparedness is key'

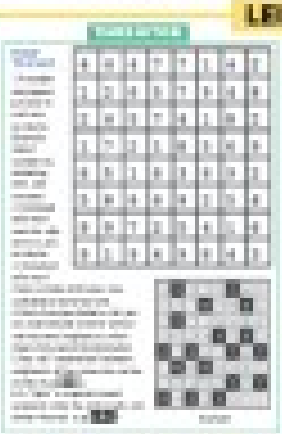
'Short-haul and domestic travel gets an upward push'

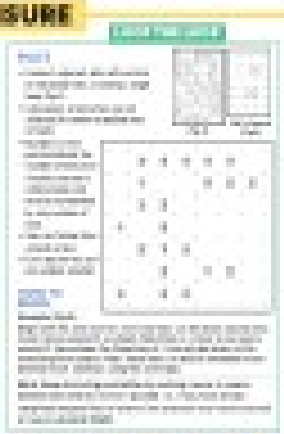
Return of casual travel spending seen'

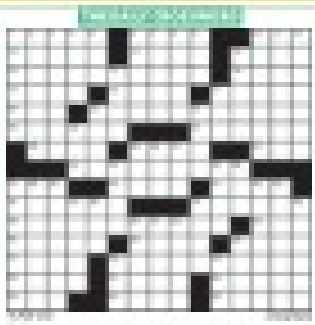
International travel has seen some impact due to the disruption in West Asia. However, Southeast Asian destinations, most notably Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Maldives, and Indian states, Sri Lanka and Nepal, are seeing an uptick in interest. Our story offers a guide to shorter 'purchase windows' with travellers keeping their options open and delaying bookings as they wait to learn the travel rules

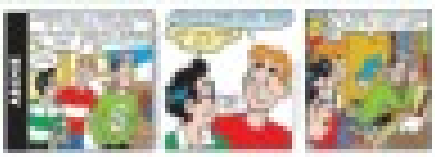
LEISURE

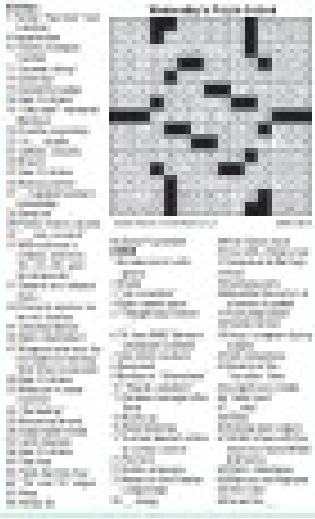


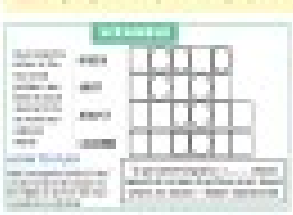


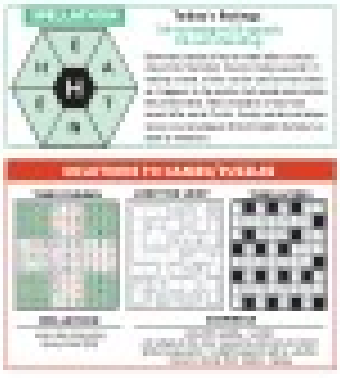












Mind where you park! 600 vehicles towed away since April 6

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

TOI

LIFTING AND HAULING BY TRUCKS

- Vehicle towing in Bengaluru was officially suspended on Feb 2, 2022, following allegations of irregularities and corruption. It was reintroduced on April 5 this year
- Operations are a joint effort between Bengaluru traffic police and GBA, and towing vehicles are equipped with dash cams and geotagging technology
- Fine for wrong parking is ₹500 (any vehicle). Additionally, ₹650 for two-wheelers and ₹1,000 for four-wheelers should be paid in towing fees

Bengaluru: A month after the city brought back towing for wrongly parked vehicles, the impact is already visible on the streets: Bengaluru traffic police data shows that nearly 600 vehicles, a majority of them cars, have been lifted and cleared.

Currently, towing operations are active across three key divisions — central, west and north — with six trucks in service, and the drive is set to expand soon. Joint commissioner of police (traffic) Karthik Reddy told **TOI:** "In the near future, six more vehicles will be added, and towing will be carried out in the south and other parts of the city."

The towing fleet, provided by Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), operates with a small crew of 3-4 personnel, including the driver. Each operation is supervised on the ground by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) from the local traffic police station, ensuring coordination and enforcement. Deputy commissioner of police (west) Anoop Shetty said they are operating with one towing vehicle in the jurisdictions of two traffic police stations. Shetty added that they are mainly moving away cars and other four-wheelers, since they majorly block other vehicles on the road.

The strategy is dynamic. In the west division, for instance, a single tow truck moves between multiple jurisdictions — operating in Wilson Garden one day and shifting to Ashok Nagar the next — covering different areas through the week, Shetty explained.

Another senior traffic police officer said whenever they come across a traffic congestion due to wrong parking, the nearest towing vehicle will be sent to the place.

"Mainly, wrong parking is seen on main roads of the central business district and at vital junctions on Outer Ring Road. When it comes to ORR, south-east and south in the tech-corridor see more wrong parking," he said.

Cop's suspension revoked weeks before retirement

Bengaluru: The govt Wednesday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officer **K Ramachandra Rao,** who is set to retire on May 30.

Rao was suspended in Jan after a video allegedly shot inside the office of the inspector general of police (IGP) in Belagavi went viral on social media. The clip, which showed him in police uniform, triggered controversy. A special committee later confirmed to the govt that the video was authentic. The video, allegedly filmed in his office, showed him in uniform engaging in inappropriate physical contact with a woman during working hours. Sources said it was shot in 2017.

His daughter, actress Ranya Rao, was arrested in March 2025 after 14.2 kg of gold bars, allegedly smuggled from Dubai, were seized. Soon after her arrest, the IPS officer was sent on compulsory leave. TNN

TRASH TROUBLE worsens as contractors oppose new plan

Door-To-Door Collection Once In 2-3 Days In Many Areas

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: What began as delays in arrival of garbage-collection vehicles has now escalated into prolonged waits, with many city areas reporting no door-to-door collection for two to three days at a stretch.

One reason for the missing vehicles is that contractors are unhappy with the proposed "packages" of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, sources in BWSML told **TOI**.

The "package" includes replacing the aging fleet with GPS-fitted auto tippers and larger trucks for more efficient collection of waste, alongside development of four integrated processing plants on the city's outskirts.

Under this model, a single contractor will be responsible for collecting all categories of waste — wet, dry, and sanitary — while also clearing "black spots" (garbage dumps along roads) and operating collection kiosks. By standardising equipment and tracking vehicles in real-time, the initiative aims to professionalise garbage disposal and ensure the city's waste is processed effectively rather than just dumped.

Uncertainty continues

However, the plan has failed to take off for years. From an initial proposal of over 80 packages proposed in 2022, the number has now been reduced to 33 following years of legal and administrative hurdles. Among the 33, only 21 have gone to the govt for approval.

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said. "As of now, 21 packages are ready to go once the govt gives approval." He said the 21 packages will cost Rs 3,180 cr for seven years, and the financial aspect is also awaiting govt clearance.

The remaining 12 packages continue to be stuck in legal disputes, with contractors making allegations of corruption against senior officials, including those in the urban development department itself. Until these issues are resolved, the city's waste management crisis is likely to persist.

STANDARD NORMS NOT FOLLOWED, SAY RESIDENTS

Residents say the immediate need is for consistent and reliable garbage collection rather than long-term plans. With user fees being collected through property tax, many argue that the current level of service is unacceptable.

Under standard norms, wet waste is to be collected daily, while dry waste is picked up on alternate days. However, residents allege that both systems have broken down.

Amaresh Laksminarayana, from Bellandur, said, "Dry waste vehicles are coming once in two weeks, when they were supposed to come twice a week. Wet waste collection is very irregular after BSWML took over. In some cases, there are even demands for money during pickups."

He added that residents of Green Glen Layout, including Blocks 31, 32 and 33, have formed WhatsApp groups that have garbage vehicle drivers and BSWML officials to raise complaints. "Despite follow-ups, there has been no action. The problem is not just in our layout — people in Haralur and nearby areas are facing the same issue," he said.

Pics: TOI

Piling up of trash has becomes rampant. (Above) Cavity of a once-sturdy tree used as waste bin in Malleswaram's Sampige Road

BLACK SPOTS MUSHROOMING

With no clarity on when garbage will be collected, many residents are left with no option but to dump waste on roadsides. This has led to an increase in "black spots" or open garbage dumps, which occupy road space and create unhygienic conditions.

Sanjay, a resident of Padmanabhanagar, said, "Garbage is lying on roads, creating slippery surfaces. Not everyone has space to store garbage for a week. People end up throwing it outside."

He also highlighted the health risks. "There is stench, rodents and stray animals tearing open garbage bags. If we keep waste outside, animals scatter it everywhere. So, we store it inside the house, which is also not ideal," he said.

Dakshiyna P, an IT professional from Doddanekundi, said, "The gap between visits (by waste collection vehicles) is now two to three days. Different vehicles for dry and wet waste come at different time slots. For people like us working in IT, it was already difficult to manage with such timings. Now, the vehicles are not coming at all for days."

Reflection a 'psychological deterrent'

▸ Continued from P1

When nothing worked, it brought in 85-metre-long, 5-foot-high reflective panels.

Officials said the idea is expected to be discussed at the next Swachh Bharat meeting as part of a broader effort to eliminate such nuisance points across Mysuru city.

Mohammed Mustafa, assistant executive engineer, UGD section, MCC, told **TOI** the idea was introduced on an experimental basis after earlier efforts failed to keep the place clean.

According to him, the reflective surface appears to have created a "psychological deterrent", making people uncomfortable about urinating in front of what looks like a mirror. He said the response so far has been positive, and that the spot, once notorious for filth, now presents a much better appearance. MCC has spent Rs 9 lakh on the project, including fabrication, installation of stainless steel plates, footpath work and related civil works. Officials say the intervention is relatively cost-effective.

The transformation of the bus stand stretch has drawn appreciation from citizens and social media users.

Maintenance can't be denied over likely failure of case: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court set aside a family court order dismissing a wife's petition seeking Rs 50,000 per month as interim maintenance and Rs 1 lakh towards litigation costs under Section 24 of Hindu Marriage Act.

The high court observed that even if the family court believes the applicant may not ultimately succeed in the dispute, it cannot refuse interim maintenance and litigation expenses solely on that basis.

On Sept 17, 2025, the family court rejected the wife's application, noting that the couple had lived together for only six to seven months and concluding that she was therefore not entitled to interim maintenance or litigation costs. The matter was then posted for the recording of evidence.

Challenging this order, the wife submitted that she is currently pursuing a BCom degree and is unemployed. She further stated that her husband works as an accountant in Dubai and earns approximately Rs 8 lakh per month.

The husband contended that the wife's claims were false, asserting that she is gainfully employed and financially independent. He further submitted that, despite his repeated requests, she had refused to join him at the matrimonial home in Dubai.

After examining the material on record and provisions of Section 24 of Hindu Marriage Act, Justice K Manmadha Rao observed that the primary objective of granting interim maintenance and litigation expenses is to provide financial support to the claimant spouse, enabling them to sustain themselves and effectively pursue legal proceedings.

The high court noted that Section 24 does not prescribe any rigid formula for determining the quantum of interim maintenance. Instead, it must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the duration of the marriage, the financial means and conduct of both spouses, their earning capacities, the responsibility of maintaining children, and the educational qualifications of the claimant.

Justice Rao said the discretion exercised by a family court must be judicial, not arbitrary, and should remain within the scope of Section 24, keeping in view the object of the Act and the settled principles of matrimonial law. While deciding an application the Hindu Marriage Act-1955, the court is required to exercise its discretion on reasonable grounds in determining the amount of interim maintenance payable by one spouse to the other.

HC explained that such discretion must be based on a careful assessment of relevant factors, particularly the income of the spouse seeking interim maintenance and that of the spouse liable to pay, along with other surrounding circumstances. The judge pointed out that, in the present case, the family court had failed to provide adequate reasons for rejecting the wife's application.

2 injured in train knife attack over trivial fight

Two passengers sustained injuries in a knife attack over a trivial fight on board a Mysuru-Bengaluru train Wednesday.

Police said the incident took place on Rajya Rani Express near Channegowdanadoddi in Maddur taluk of Mandya district when one Shivakumar, 44, of Badavanahalli in Madhugiri taluk, objected to the use of abusive language a fellow passenger. This led to a heated argument, during which the accused allegedly attacked him with a knife.

Shivakumar pulled the emergency chain, bringing the train to a halt near Channegowdanadoddi. The accused then jumped off the train and attempted to flee. Kumara, a railway gateman at Channegowdanadoddi, rushed to intervene. He was also stabbed. Public overpowered the accused and handed them over to police. TNN

AI will take data entry work off teachers' shoulders: Prof

▸ Continued from page 1

We will use large language models (LLMs), which understand natural language. It will also look at the keywords. To start with, we will use existing AI models. Eventually, we will train the models based on human grader/teacher inputs," said Rajshekhar V Bhat, assistant professor, department of electrical, electronics and communication engineering, IIT Dharwad.

"Most time consuming for teachers is data entry. With the new AI model it will be off their shoulders. They will, however, monitor the AI evaluation and keep track of the child's progress. In time, we hope AI's role will include formative assessments as well, " said Rashmi V Mahesh, additional chief secretary, department of school education and literacy.

A pilot project using SSLC preparatory exam answer sheets will be conducted first, followed by more in regions around IIT Dharwad, including Hubballi-Dharwad-Karwar region. Eventually, the system is expected to handle answer scripts from around 1.5 million students.

In yet another feature of the platform, an MoU is likely to be signed for a digital AI tutor that can be used to supplement classroom teaching. Students can log in and get their concepts clarified by interacting with the system. It will also support text to text, voice to text or voice to voice and also script to text or text to script forms.

"It is an LLM-based platform customised to Karnataka state syllabus. There will be videos that explain concepts," added Bhat.

Khader: Constitutional norms strictly followed

▸ Continued from page 1

After the recount row, the oath-taking also turned contentious, with BJP accusing speaker Khader of delaying the process. A party delegation had met governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot, urging him to administer the oath if the Speaker was unavailable.

Rejecting BJP's charge, Khader said the process was handled strictly in keeping with constitutional norms. "I must act responsibly and as per the Constitution. There was no intention to delay the process," he said. "We need to seek expert opinion. How can this [delay] be termed deliberate?" Khader further said, noting that BJP's request was submitted only Tuesday.

Jeevaraj, who had lost to Congress candidate TD Raje Gowda in 2023, was declared elected Sunday after recounting of postal ballots.

The development sparked a sharp faceoff between governing Congress and BJP. CM Siddaramaiah described the process as "vote dacoity" and said an FIR had been registered against Jeevaraj. The FIR, though, was later stayed by the high court.

Cracks & zig-zags: B'luru scientists discover new play of water with clay

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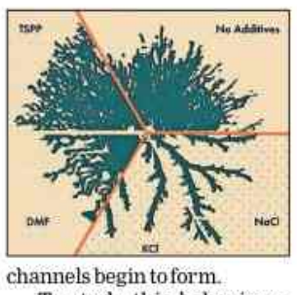


The clay's elasticity determines the kind of patterns formed. Additives such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride make the clay rigid and brittle

Bengaluru: What happens when water pushes its way through clay? Scientists in Bengaluru report that the action can look surprisingly dramatic, with twisting fingers, zig-zag pathways and even crack-like fractures spreading through the material.

Researchers from Raman Research Institute (RRI) have discovered two previously unreported patterns. The study, published in New Journal of Physics, focused on what scientists call "fluid flow instability" — a disturbance that forms where one fluid pushes another aside. In daily life, people encounter fluids of different thicknesses all the time. Honey flows more slowly than water, while toothpaste can briefly hold its shape.

Clay suspensions belong to this second category, known as non-Newtonian fluids. When water is forced through them in a confined space, branching channels begin to form.

To study this behaviour, the researchers created clay mixtures using different additives, including common salt and chemicals that alter the clay's elasticity. The experiments were conducted inside a narrow gap between two circular glass plates, an arrangement known as a Hele-Shaw cell.

As water spread outward through the clay, it produced striking radial patterns. "An observation particularly exciting was that of new modes of finger propagation, namely, zig-zag and skewering. The appearance of these modes was unexpected and had never been reported in previous studies," said Ranjini Bandyopadhyay, senior professor at the institute and co-author of the study.

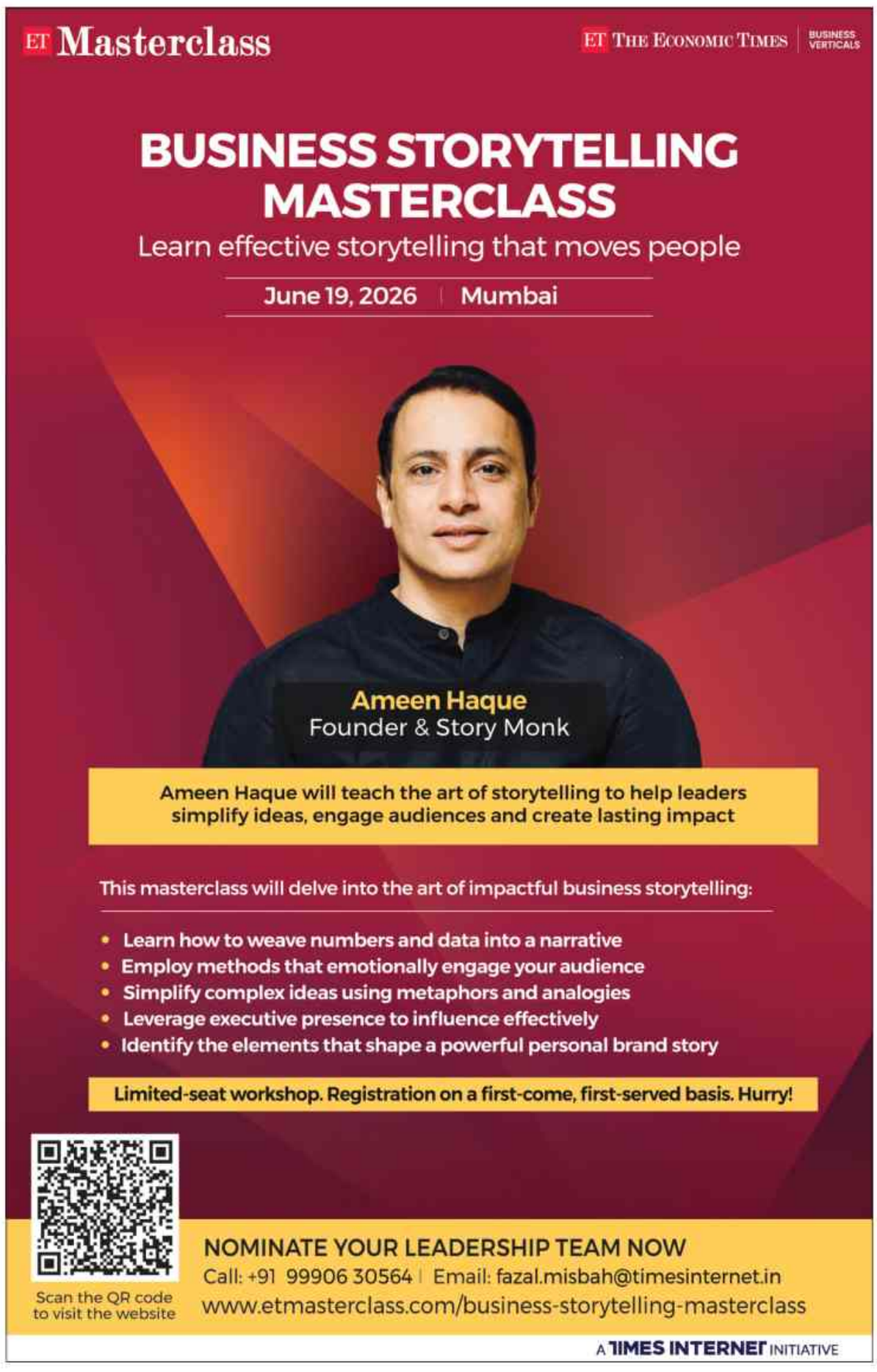
The team found that the clay's elasticity determined the kind of patterns formed. When the clay mixture was less elastic, water created uneven pathways that bent into zig-zag shapes or pierced through surrounding structures in a "skewering" pattern. But when additives such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride were introduced, the clay became far more rigid and brittle.

Under those conditions, the advancing water no longer created channels. Instead, the clay fractured. "It's like taking a sharp object and banging it on a piece of glass," Bandyopadhyay explained. "The glass just cracks."

Researchers say the findings could have practical applications in industries where controlling fluid movement is important. During oil extraction, for instance, fluids are injected into rocks to push trapped oil outward. But unstable finger-like pathways can reduce recovery efficiency because the injected fluid bypasses parts of the oil reservoir.

"Instabilities are not desired during oil recovery. You need to understand instabilities to control them," Vaibhav Raj Singh Parmar, lead author of the study and PhD student at the institute, said.

The researchers also say the work may help scientists better understand how clays moves in natural and industrial settings, including through pipelines and underground formations.

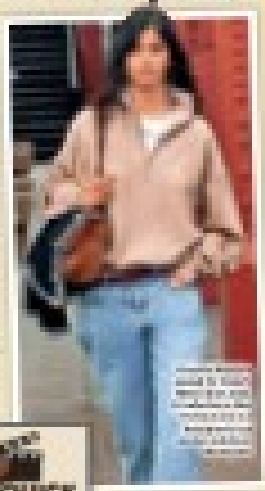


'Amma Ariyan blurs the boundaries of documentary and fiction'

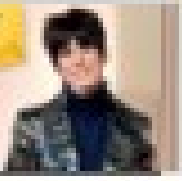
There are elements that switches film spaces. Film's lead actor

Shahnewaz of 'Ore Film is an instance on the film in all': Editor of 'Amma Ariyan

Did Chanel 'do her dirty,' or did we miss the point?



QUICK TAKE



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Warrant to arrest BJP legislator

TIMES NEWS NETWROK

Bengaluru: A special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru Wednesday issued an arrest warrant against **BP Harish**, BJP MLA who represents Harihar, for refusing to appear for a judicial inquiry.

Special judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat directed police in Davanagere to produce the legislator before the court on Thursday.

The warrant stems from a 2023 caste abuse case registered at Harihar town police station. Soon after the 2023 assembly election results, a group of Dalit members and civic workers visited Harish to congratulate him on his victory. During the interaction, Harish allegedly insulted the workers, accusing the community of failing to support BJP despite providing internal reservation and that they were "ungrateful".

Harish offered an apology during a reconciliation meeting, but D Hanumanthappa of BSP filed a formal complaint.

With Congress-led govt in Kerala, Bandipur traffic ban back in focus

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Bengaluru: Relations between Karnataka and Kerala are in focus following the change of govt in the neighbouring state, with ecological concerns and administrative differences continuing to shape ties. While expectations of improved coordination have risen after Congress-led UDF assumed office in Kerala, environmentalists are worried of policy shifts driven by political considerations.

At the centre of the debate is the night traffic ban through Bandipur Tiger Reserve, an issue that has repeatedly cropped up. The restriction, in place since 2009 on NH-766 between 9pm and 6am, affects a key 25km stretch connecting Wayanad in Kerala with Mysuru and Bengaluru. Karnataka has defended the ban on ecological grounds, citing reduced wildlife mortality and disturbance, while Kerala has consistently argued that it hampers connectivity, trade and tourism.

VOICE OF VOICELESS: File picture of youngsters protesting lifting of the night traffic ban in Bandipur and a proposed elevated highway

The issue gained fresh traction after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's election from Wayanad last year. She had promised to pursue a resolution and Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar had indicated that the govt is open to reviewing the matter. But lifting the ban would leave Karnataka's forest department in bind, given its long-standing legal and environmental commitments.

Conservationists insist Karnataka's stance has been consistent, backed by affidavits and judicial scrutiny. "The Supreme Court has upheld continuation of the night traffic ban after examining ecological impacts, and that policy continuity is critical to safeguarding wildlife corridors in the Western Ghats," said KN Girish, a wildlife expert. "Karnataka has invested substantially in developing alternative routes, suggesting that further improvements to these corridors may offer a more viable solution than easing restrictions within the protected area."

Forest minister Eshwar Khandre reiterated that there is no formal proposal to lift the ban and emphasised that the state's position is aligned with court directives.

Beyond the Bandipur issue, language policy has emerged as another area of friction. Kerala's proposed Malayalam Language Bill 2025, which seeks to mandate Malayalam as the first language in schools, has drawn objections from Karnataka over its implications for Kannada-speaking populations in border districts such as Kasaragod, Kannur, and Wayanad. Karnataka has raised concerns over linguistic rights, while Kerala has maintained that the measure is aimed at strengthening the state language without disadvantaging minorities.

Periodic flashpoints have also contributed to tensions. Demolition drives on illegal settlements in Bengaluru's Kogilu area early this year prompted criticism from Kerala politicians at the time, leading to a brief political exchange before Karnataka and announced rehabilitation measures and clarified that it was an enforcement drive against illegal structures.

Infrastructure proposals have similarly revealed competing priorities. Karnataka has expressed ecological reservations over Kerala's proposed Thalassery–Mysuru railway line, citing potential risks to sensitive forest regions in the Western Ghats.

Despite these differences, the relationship between the two states remains structurally interdependent. Trade flows, labour mobility and tourism continue to bind border regions, especially in areas like Mangaluru and Kasaragod, where linguistic and cultural overlaps are significant. Tourism circuits linking Kodagu and Wayanad further reinforce economic ties.

Coir corpn to open outlet in Jaipur

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Bengaluru: Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Ltd (KSCDCL) will open its first showroom outside the state in Jaipur Saturday, marking a key step in its plans to expand and promote eco-friendly coir products, including Dutch mats.

The outlet, set up in collaboration with a regional distributor, will stock around 6,000 Dutch mats besides other products, chairman Nataraj Janakiram said. The first consignment was flagged off by chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh at Vidhana Soudha last week and has reached Jaipur.

Janakiram said the corporation plans expand and open similar showrooms in other states. It has also appointed stockists and carrying and forwarding agents in Rajasthan, Delhi and Gujarat.

KSCDCL has recorded steady growth in recent years, with turnover rising from Rs 6.8 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 21.7 crore in 2025-26. It has set a target of achieving Rs 100 crore in 2026–27. "It will not be a tough task if govt departments procure coir products from the corporation," Janakiram said.

To strengthen sales, Janakiram has written to chief minister Siddaramaiah seeking directions to govt departments and district administrations to procure coir products. In one letter, he urged the muzrai department to supply coir mats to temples, noting that granite flooring can be difficult for devotees walking barefoot. He suggested that mats be laid across temple premises. He said purchases from the corporation would support financial growth and generate rural employment.

Established in 1985, KSCDCL manufactures products such as mats, ropes, geotextiles and mattresses from coconut husks. It has 35 production units across the state. It plays a significant role in providing jobs in rural areas, especially for women.

As part of its outreach efforts, KSCDCL has launched a new website and is preparing to roll out an e-commerce platform to widen its market access.

Census: 85% of 1st phase completed; GBA lags

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Bengaluru: With less than 10 days left for the first phase of Census 2027, Karnataka has completed 85% of houselisting work, officials said.

Houselisting and housing census, which forms Phase I, covers 33 questions on housing conditions, household details, amenities and assets through a structured questionnaire. The 30-day exercise began on April 16 and will conclude on May 15.

Ramachandran R, state census operations director, was confident of meeting the deadline. He said data consolidation is in the final stretch. "Once houselisting concludes, we will prepare for the next phase — population enumeration — beginning Feb 2027," he said.

On setting targets, he said estimates tend to fall short due to rapid and uneven urban growth. "Cities grow in a very dynamic and haphazard manner. Every district behaves differently with respect to targets. But we are working with a close approximation," he said.

At 75% completion, progress within Greater Bengaluru Area has lagged, with officials citing staff shortages and operational challenges. Plans are in place to redeploy personnel from faster-moving areas to underperforming zones, especially East zone, which has recorded the slowest progress.

Maheshwar Rao, GBA commissioner, admitted: "We need to speed up work. Existing staff have been given additional blocks. We have also roped in 500-600 volunteers across the five corporations, ranging from 100 to 400 in each," he said.

He said overlapping responsibilities across departments have affected staff availability. "KPSC recruitments, education department examinations, emergency works by PWD, drainage-related works and other departmental requirements affect staff availability," Rao said. "We have worked with departments to ensure only the minimum required personnel are deployed. We hope to achieve 100% completion within the deadline."

Senior officials also pointed to administrative gaps. "In GBA, many staffs opted for exemption, and HRMS data on deputations was not updated," they said.

CM, Shivakumar to await Delhi call

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru/Bengaluru: With results of the five state assembly elections now declared, Congress' high command is expected to turn its attention to the tussle over the chief minister post in Karnataka between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar, amid indications that clarity may be provided soon.

CM Siddaramaiah Wednesday reiterated that any decision on the issue rests entirely with Delhi party brass. "If I am called to Delhi, I will go. Otherwise, if I have to go, I will go when Rahul Gandhi gives an appointment," he said.

Deputy CM Shivakumar echoed a similar view, dismissing speculation about an imminent visit to Delhi. "When we are called, we will go. They told us they would call. It won't look good if we go without being called," he said.

Asked about the possibility of "good news" coinciding with his 64th birthday on May 15, Shivakumar declined to comment.

SR Madhusudhan

NETWORKING: Siddaramaiah with Immadi Siddharameshwar Swami and Shivaraj Tangadagi in Mysuru on Wednesday

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah credited recent bypoll victories in Davanagere South and Bagalkot to public support for his govt. "The results clearly show people appreciate our govt and our programmes," he said. "Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to win three byelections last time and two now. We have the blessings of the people," he said.

On rumours of a cabinet reshuffle, he said he would act strictly on directions from the high command.

On disciplinary action against Muslim functionaries over alleged anti-party activities during the Davanagere bypoll, Shivakumar said the matter had already been decided. "Party brass reviewed the matter. The CM nominated Naseer Ahmed and has all the information. Abdul Jabbar was given an opportunity but did not perform, so he was removed," he said.

Siddaramaiah, 77, is now oldest CM

Siddaramaiah, 77, has become the oldest serving chief minister in the country, adding another distinction to his political career months after setting a record as the state's longest-serving CM. The change follows the exit of Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, 82, after the Left Democratic Front's electoral defeat.

Siddaramaiah's rise to the top comes at a time of generational shifts in state leadership. Observers say his continued tenure reflects his strong position in Karnataka politics even as Congress navigates internal discussions on his future. He had earlier overtaken former chief minister D Devaraj Urs in tenure, reinforcing his long-standing role in the state's governance.

At 75, N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh) is next, followed by Mizoram CM Lalduhoma, Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio and Puducherry CM N Rangaswamy, all aged 74. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu, 46, remains the youngest serving CM in India.

Drought looms, state moves to save water

Bengaluru: Anticipating an El Niño year and a possible shortage of water, minor irrigation minister **NS Boseraju** directed officials to take immediate preventive measures to ensure water security and prevent leaks from lakes and reservoirs.

Chairing a high-level technical consultation and review meeting Wednesday, the minister assessed the state's preparedness to tackle potential drought conditions. Experts stressed the need to prioritise groundwater recharge initiatives and adopt long-term water conservation strategies to manage available resources effectively. They also called for large-scale public awareness campaigns promoting rainwater harvesting.

Boseraju told officials to fully prepare to face the possible effects of El Niño in the coming months. He emphasised that special attention must be given to preventing water leaks from tanks, pick-up dams and reservoirs under the department.

He issued strict instructions to executive engineers, holding them responsible for maintaining and monitoring irrigation structures under their jurisdiction. He directed them to take immediate steps to plug even minor leaks and ensure efficient water management.

Scientists from Indian Institute of Science, experts from Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, National Disaster Management Authority, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, and senior officials were present at the meeting.

Participants also focused on strengthening water conservation infrastructure, improving reservoir management and enhancing preparedness to mitigate drought-related challenges in vulnerable regions of the state.

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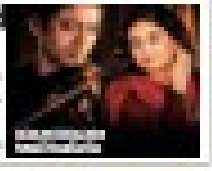
From Su From So fame to wedding vows: JP Thumined ties the knot

GALLERY

Irrfan, Vidya's unreleased film streams on YouTube



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WILL VACATE ONE OF TWO ASSEMBLY SEATS WON IN 10 DAYS: BENGAL BJP NETA SUVENDU ADHIKARI

UNION EDUCATION MINISTER PRADHAN LAUNCHES SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES 2026

HACK OF THE DAY — **PRACTISE SPOKEN ENGLISH WITH AI CHATBOT'S VOICE MODE**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Gives students, job seekers, and professionals a patient speaking partner for interviews, presentations, customer calls, and everyday English practice

WHAT TO DO: Use ChatGPT Voice Mode to practise aloud instead of only typing questions and reading answers

STEPS:

1. **Open** the ChatGPT app or website where Voice Mode is available
2. **Start** a voice conversation
3. **Ask** for a roleplay, such as job interview, client call, viva, sales pitch, or travel conversation
4. **Speak** naturally and ask for corrections after each answer
5. **Repeat** the same situation until you sound more confident

NOTE: This works best when you ask for gentle correction, shorter sentences, and a realistic Indian context rather than generic grammar lessons

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

UP's One District One Cuisine menu makes a sweet cut

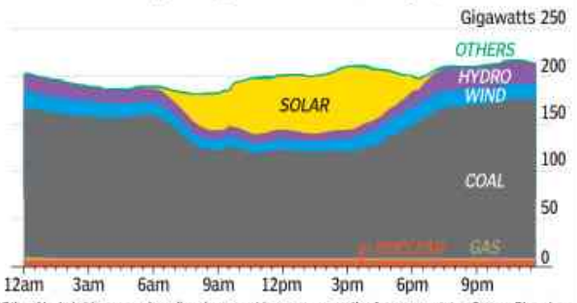
Uttar Pradesh govt's One District One Cuisine (ODOC) makes a sweet initiative, literally. Over 45% of the delicacies on the all-vegetarian One District One Cuisine list, approved by the state cabinet earlier this week, are sweets of some kind. Among the pride of place are Agra's petha, Mathura's peda, Meerut's gajak, Lucknow's rewari and makhan malai, Varanasi's tiranga barfi, and regionally popular Ayodhya's khurchan peda and jalebi, Barabanki's chandrakala, Banda's sohan halwa, Shravasti's imarti and Jalaun's gujhiya. Sought-after sweets in small towns such as Baghpat's ghewar, Lalitpur's doodh ka halwa, and Kushinagar's lal khurma also figure in the list. Jaggery made in different districts of western Uttar Pradesh also makes the cut. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

6am to 6pm: How the sun changes India's power mix

When it is sunny, power generated in solar farms and rooftops substantially reduces coal's dominance (by over 30-40 GW) as the principal source of electricity

India's power generation mix (on May 1, 2026)



'Others' include biomass and small-scale renewable energy generation from some states; **Source:** Bloomberg

INDIA bloc cracks as Cong snaps 11-yr-old DMK ties

Alliance Churn In TN: DMK Cries 'Backstabbing'

M Yazhiniyan & Subodh Ghildiyal

NEW TIES: Congress workers celebrate after TNCC and the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) decided to extend support to Vijay-led TVK to form the govt in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai on Wednesday

Chennai/New Delhi: Congress snapped Wednesday its 11-year alliance with DMK and threw its weight behind TVK, deepening fissures in INDIA bloc after DMK's rout in Tamil Nadu.

AICC in-charge Girish Chodankar met TVK president C Joseph Vijay and pledged support of Congress's five MLAs. "The Congress-TVK alliance will continue for local body polls and the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," Chodankar said.

The switch redraws the state's political map and blunts INDIA bloc's pitch of a united front against BJP. Congress framed its support as a move to "keep away communal forces". "Is INDIA bloc still alive?" a senior Congress politician asked, citing frictions with regional partners. "We are still uncertain about numbers to form govt in Tamil Nadu. We will focus on INDIA bloc after this," said Su Thirunavukkarasar.

DMK functionaries hit back, branding the move "backstabbing". AICC spokesman Pawan Khera rejected the charge as "unfair", recalling DMK's 2013 break with Congress. "Two parties fight together to stop the rot. If we can form a govt with like-minded parties, what is wrong with it," he said, defending the realignment TVK, formed in 2024.

The fallout comes as two key bloc partners, DMK and Trinamool Congress in Bengal, have lost the recent assembly elections, amplifying perceptions of a shaky coalition. Political observers warned the rupture dents the bloc's cohesion. "Congress has been adopting a high-handed attitude with allies... This trend would weaken the united opposition to BJP in 2029," said commentator Suguna Diwakar. The shift could also make regional partners wary of Congress prioritising its own electoral calculus over alliance arithmetic.

Congress netas said the gamble could pay if TVK is folded into the INDIA framework. The day's tightrope was evident when Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi reached out to both MK Stalin and Vijay after results, as Congress attempts to manage state-level realignments without capsizing the broader anti-BJP platform.

Hope BJP wins in Assam, Bengal won't spur 'pushbacks': Dhaka

'Will Take Action If Such Incidents Take Place'

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka/New Delhi: "I hope no such incident will happen," said Bangladesh home minister **Salahuddin Ahmed** on Wednesday when asked if he feared a rise in cases of suspected illegal immigrants being "pushed back" — forcibly expelled — from India into Bangladesh after BJP's poll victories in bordering Assam and West Bengal. Illegal migration and 'pushbacks' have been a thorny issue in Indo-Bangladesh ties.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bangladesh foreign minister Khalilur Rahman was quoted on the governing BNP's official Facebook page as saying that Dhaka would act if such incidents occurred amid the "change of power" in West Bengal.

Though former PM Sheikh Hasina's stay in India after her 2024 ouster and a pending extradition request remain concerns for Dhaka, the "pushback" issue is seen by many in Bangladesh as a hurdle to ties.

In New Delhi, meeting a delegation of Bangladeshi journalists, foreign secretary Vikram Misri said, "We have weathered a testing time," adding, "We are getting down to reactivating all tools of bilateral relations and contacts."

Bangladesh and India have over 40 bilateral mechanisms covering trade, border management, consular issues and water, including the 2011 Teesta river water-sharing pact blocked by Mamata Banerjee.

Six months on, Olive Ridley released from Maha back from Oman after 3,500km trip

Vaishnavi Chandrashekhar

Almost six months after an Olive Ridley turtle was released from Dahanu with a satellite transmitter on her back, she has returned to Indian waters after a 3,500km round trip across the Arabian Sea, nearly reaching the coast of Oman.

Dhaval Lakshmi is the only one among Maharashtra's eight satellite-tagged turtles to take this deep-sea route; others largely moved along the west coast. She was also the only one treated for injuries before release, making her journey a testament to rehabilitation efforts of Dahanu Turtle Rescue Centre. "This is a success story," said Suresh Kumar of WII.

The turtle's story began last Aug, when she was found injured on Dhakati Beach in Dahanu. She was treated for months and released on Nov 20 with a tracker attached to her shell. She was named after late wildlife activist Dhaval Kansara.

At first she stayed close to shore, then headed west. By mid-Jan she was over 700km from Dahanu. On Feb 26, she was located just 160km off Masirah Island, a known turtle nesting site. Researchers were excited to see if she would migrate to Oman's continental shelf, but she made a U-turn and moved northeast. He said only a very small sample of turtles has been tracked, so much remains unknown.

26-yr-old dead, 5 critical after C-sec deliveries at Kota govt hospital

Kota: A 26-year-old woman died and five others remain critical after developing severe complications following caesarean deliveries at New Medical College Hospital, prompting multiple inquiries and a state-level probe. Complications surfaced 8-10 hours after surgeries conducted Monday evening.

Payal from Bhainsrorgarh died Tuesday, though her baby is healthy. Hospital authorities said six women suffered a sharp drop in blood pressure, falling platelet counts and blockage of urine due to kidney infection. All were shifted to nephrology ward, while six newborns were moved to NICU.

Dr R P Meena said the five women were stable but not out of danger. Principal Dr Nilesh Kumar Jain said 12-13 women underwent C-sections that night, with the health of six women deteriorating later. A medical team from Jaipur has been sent to assist and investigate. — **Rajiv Saxena**

Maharashtra stays Hindi test for govt employees, 'will review if it's needed'

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Mumbai: Maharashtra govt has stayed Hindi language exam scheduled to be held for state govt employees on June 28 and review whether such exams were necessary at all, industries and Marathi language minister Uday Samant said Wednesday. State had announced the test, and officials said gazetted officers and govt employees were supposed to take it.

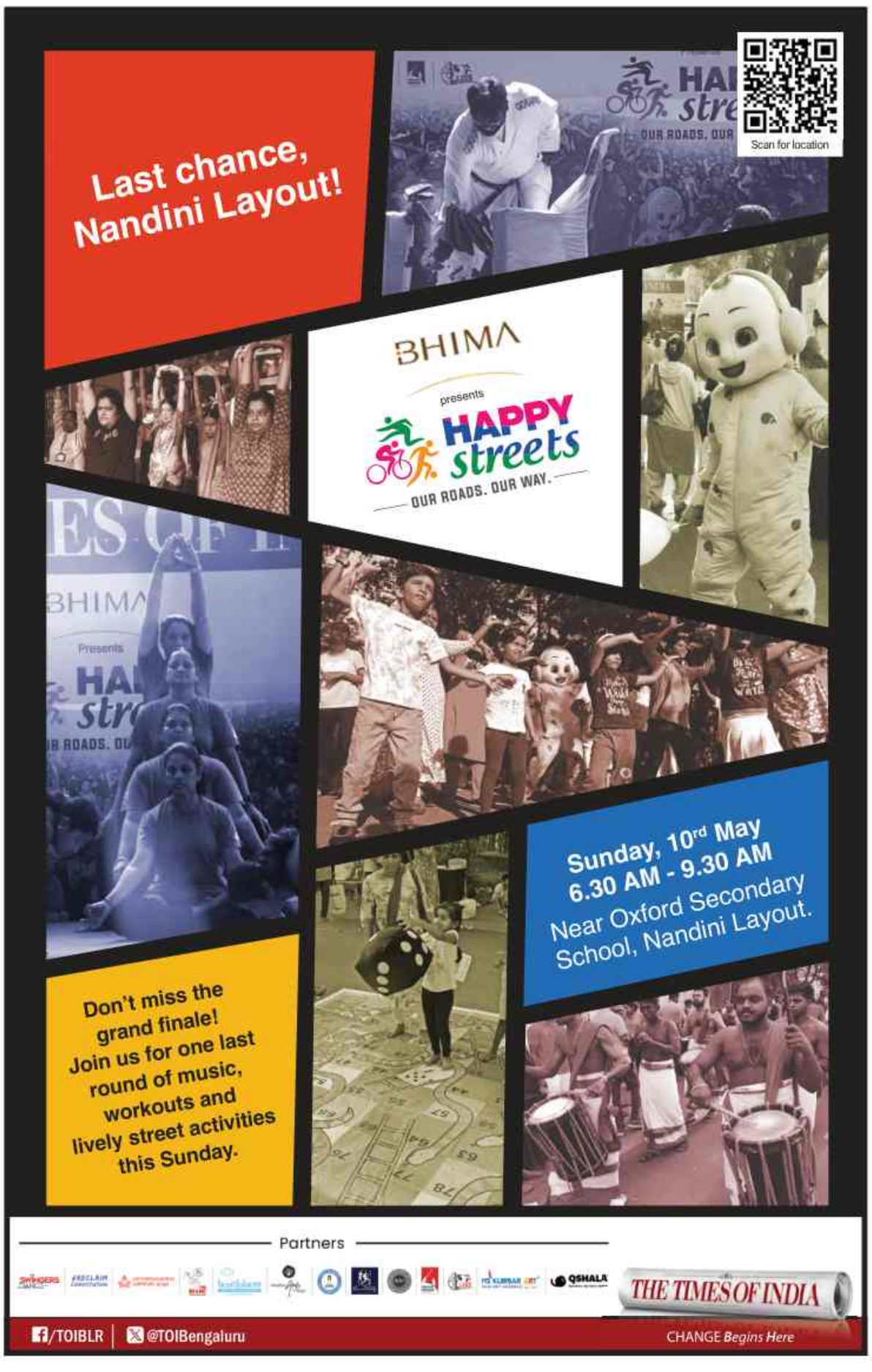
Shiv Sena (UBT), MNS and Marathi language activists had opposed the test and warned of an agitation.

Officials said the Hindi exam for govt employees goes back to the 1950s, when it was introduced by the then Bombay state to enable officials to use Hindi for administrative work in line with constitutional provisions. Officials said that after Maharashtra was formed in 1960, the Hindi test continued, with several exemptions introduced over time, and has been held regularly.

Political observers said the govt may have stayed the test to prevent another Marathi vs Hindi row in the state after the controversy over introduction of Hindi in schools from Class 1.

Samant said, "I came to know such an exam would be conducted by the Directorate of Marathi Language. After that, I discussed it with our principal secretary Kiran Kulkarni. Now it has been decided to postpone that exam."

He said, "Is the Hindi language test necessary in the future? I, as the state's Marathi language minister, will verify this. After that, if the test is necessary, we will conduct it, and if it is not we won't."



Bangalore Times

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HC: Child's right to travel can't hinge on one parent's consent

'Minor Shouldn't Suffer Over Acrimony Between Spouses'

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Bengaluru: The Karnataka high court has held that a child's right to travel, particularly to meet close family members, cannot be curtailed merely because one parent withholds consent or obstructs the legal process.

The court found that the child's rights were entangled in matrimonial discord between her parents, and held that the minor could not be made to suffer on account of acrimony between the spouses.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum made the observation while directing the Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Bengaluru to issue a short-validity passport to a five-year-old girl, allowing her to travel to Australia with her mother.

LEGAL CLARITY

- MEA/RPO cite **need for both parents' consent** for issuing passport to minor
- Minor can't suffer due to **parents' matrimonial dispute**, rules high court
- Orders Regional Passport Office to **issue short-validity passport** to 5-year-old girl
- Directs mother to **file undertaking on child's return** from trip to Australia

The court ordered the child's mother and natural guardian to file an affidavit of undertaking before the RPO, stating that the minor would return to India within the passport's stipulated period and comply with any further conditions imposed by the passport authority in accordance with law.

The petition was filed by the minor through her mother after the father did not respond to requests for assistance in securing a passport for her.

The court was told that the child intended to travel to Australia with her mother during the summer vacation to visit her grandparents, and that the delay in issuance of the passport amounted to an infringement of her rights.

Opposing the plea, the Ministry of External Affairs and the RPO argued that under existing provisions, consent of both parents is necessary for issuance of a passport to a minor, and that in the case on hand, in the absence of the father's consent, the application could not be processed.

After examining the material on record and referring to Allahabad HC's ruling in the Poem Jaiswar vs Union of India and one other similar case, Justice Magadum noted that Passport Rules, 1980, contemplate situations where consent of one parent may not be forthcoming due to unavoidable circumstances, and that rigid insistence on such consent cannot be sustained.

India, Vietnam upgrade ties, focus on trade and defence

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New Delhi: India and Vietnam upgraded their relations to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership — with focus on boosting cooperation in trade, defence, connectivity and technology — as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted visiting President To Lam for bilateral talks.

The two countries signed over a dozen MoUs, including one for cooperation in rare earths that indicated the importance they attach to supply chain resilience and diversification amid Chinese monopoly on the industry.

Against the backdrop of concerns over Chinese activities in South China Sea, both leaders reaffirmed commitment to freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, seeking peaceful resolution of disputes in line with international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS.

Modi receives Vietnam president To Lam ahead of their meet at Hyderabad House, in Delhi

Modi said India and Vietnam have a common outlook in the Indo-Pacific and will continue to contribute to rule of law, peace, stability and prosperity through their deepening security and defence cooperation. Hanoi's cautious and layered approach to China saw the Communist Party chief, who was elected President last month, visiting Beijing days after assuming office to cement bilateral ties, notwithstanding concerns about China's expansive South China Sea claims.

The PM also said in a media statement that both sides had taken several important decisions to facilitate $25 billion annual trade by 2030, citing an MoU between drug authorities that is expected to improve access for Indian medicines in Vietnam.

The PM also said that both sides had also agreed that the Asean India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) should be updated by the end of the year. "This will provide a new impetus to trade and investment between India and all Asean countries. Through new initiatives in critical minerals, rare earths, and energy cooperation, we will ensure the economic security and supply chain resilience of both countries," he said, while also thanking the President for strongly condemning the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Times Network unveils new podcast, Baatein Dil Se

Times News Network

New Delhi: Times Network has launched Baatein Dil Se with Navika Kumar, Times Group Editor-in-Chief, on the official YouTube channel of Times NOW.

According to a statement by Times Network, "Baatein Dil Se marks a departure from the intensity of interrogation, opening the door to meaningful, free-flowing conversations with voices shaping the idea of New India...

"The podcast focuses on depth, nuance, and authenticity — bringing together stories that go beyond headlines. From leaders and changemakers to cultural influencers and emerging voices, each episode aims to uncover not just perspectives, but the people behind them."

The first guest on the podcast is Punjabi singer, poet, and Sufi artist Satinder Sartaaj.

ACB court jails traffic cop over bribery racket

Rajkot: A special ACB court here sentenced a traffic police head constable and his civilian accomplice for running an organised bribery racket.

While Makwana was sentenced to 10-year RI and fined Rs 3 lakh under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Parmar was handed a seven-year jail term and fined Rs 2 lakh.

The court also directed Gujarat govt to act against investigators for allegedly covering up a wider conspiracy.

The accused ran an extortion scheme, collecting a monthly "entry fee" of Rs 50 from commercial vehicle drivers. Instead of issuing legal penalty receipts for missing documents, they took bribes and issued specially printed 'protection cards'.

The racket was busted after a food chain owner complained to ACB that his drivers were repeatedly forced to pay bribes. TNN

9 states, including K'taka, account for 3/4th of NEET(UG) aspirants

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Nearly two in five NEET (UG) aspirants this year came from just four states, highlighting the concentration of India's medical education aspirants, even as the overall exam base continues to expand. Data from National Testing Agency (NTA)'s state-wise report for NEET (UG) 2026 shows that Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Bihar together accounted for about 9.4 lakh candidates, or 41.4% of the total 22.7 lakh candidates for the exam.

Together, the top nine states — including Karnataka — accounted for over 17 lakh candidates, or roughly three-fourths of total pool, indicating a sharp clustering of aspirants in a limited set of large states.

Overall participation remained high. Of the 22.7 lakh candidates, over 22 lakh appeared, translating into an attendance rate of 96.9%. A total of 69,976 candidates were absent, or 3% of those allotted centres.

Of a total of 22.7 lakh candidates who took the exam, Karnataka accounted for 1.5 lakh

The four largest states also topped the list individually. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest allocation around 3.6 lakh candidates, followed by Maharashtra with 2.2 lakh, Rajasthan with 2 lakh and Bihar with 1.5 lakh. Other high-volume states included Karnataka (1.5 lakh), Tamil Nadu (1.4 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (1.2 lakh), Kerala (1.1 lakh) and West Bengal (1 lakh).

In contrast, several smaller states and Union territories reported allocations below 5,000 candidates, underlining the uneven geographic spread of participation.

But attendance levels were consistently high across states. Gujarat recorded the highest attendance rate at 98.1%, followed by Puducherry at 98% and Rajasthan at 97.9%. Among large states, Uttar Pradesh (97.5%) and Maharashtra (97.4%) also reported strong turnout. Kerala had lowest attendance rate among major states at 94.4%, followed by Assam (95.1%) and Tamil Nadu (95.9%).

The examination was conducted on May 3 in pen-and-paper mode across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad, being held at more than 5,400 centres. Over two lakh personnel, including city coordinators, observers, centre superintendents and invigilators, were deployed for the exercise.

The operational scale was matched by a layered monitoring framework. Conduct of exam involved 674 city coordinators and more than 6,000 observers, with CCTV surveillance across centres.

Man jailed for 'I Love Mohammed' post secures bail

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has granted bail to a man jailed for allegedly posting on social media that he could get his head severed and could sever heads for "I Love Mohammed", reports **Rajesh Kumar Pandey**.

In its May 4 order, Justice Rajiv Lochan Shukla observed that the "supposed objectionable" post made by the applicant did not name any caste or community. Nadeem, a resident of Muzaffarnagar, was booked by UP police last year for allegedly making sensitive remarks on his Instagram profile.

Nadeem's counsel, seeking bail for him, argued that a charge sheet has been submitted and there was no likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future.

AP HC sends lawyer to judicial custody

Times News Network

New Delhi: Bar Council of India (BCI) and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Wednesday sought CJI Surya Kant's urgent intervention in resolving the controversy arising from an Andhra Pradesh high court judge's decision to send a young lawyer to judicial custody for 24 hours, ignoring his repeated pleas for mercy for purported misdemeanour.

Writing a letter to CJI, BCI president Manan Kumar Mishra said, "Incidents of this nature have a chilling effect upon young members of the Bar. They create fear in their minds. The dignity of the Court is not enhanced when a lawyer is made to beg for grace in open Court and is still sent to custody for a procedural lapse."

Based on a video of the incident in Andhra Pradesh high court circulating on social media, SCBA, led by its president Vikas Singh, passed a resolution on Wednesday which read, "Any action that causes fear, humiliation or intimidation amongst young advocates has the potential to adversely impact the independence of the Bar and the optimal operation of justice delivery system."

SCBA requested Chief Justice of India to call for relevant records from AP HC and take corrective measures on administrative side in the interest of preserving public confidence in judiciary and maintaining cordial Bar-Bench relations.

B'bay HC: Navy's stance on NOC at final stage illegal

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Tuesday said that the law doesn't permit a carte blanche to defence authorities to foist selectively a requirement of their prior nod. Holding one such insistence of the navy for its NOC to be illegal, the HC upheld a 2023 approval for construction of two buildings in Worli near INS Trata, a naval establishment. Justices G S Kulkarni and Aarti Sathe held the insistence by naval authorities on their NOC at the final stage of construction was "arbitrary, illegal, invalid and unjustified," **reports Swati Deshpande**.

The HC order paves the way for over 70 families from Prabhadevi Insdraprastha CHS, "waiting anxiously", to get possession in one building in the redevelopment project.

High command to pick Kerala CM by Sunday

Rajiv.G@timesofindia.com

T'puram: The contest to pick Congress legislature party chief in Kerala entered a decisive stretch Wednesday as AICC observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik reached the state to sound out newly elected MLAs. Senior state functionaries have been asked to be in New Delhi after Thursday's meeting, with the high command aiming to seal the choice by Sunday.

Three contenders — KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala — have stepped up lobbying across 63-member Congress bloc. Rival camps circulated competing claims of support, with Venugopal's side pegging its numbers at 43 MLAs, while Satheesan and Chennithala factions projected 35 and 22, respectively.

Chennithala travelled to New Delhi and met senior Congress politicians, including Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. The visit was officially linked to organisational work in Maharashtra, but party sources said he pressed his claim for the CM's post.

A parallel push for Satheesan gathered pace, with coordinated messages and emails reaching Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, reflecting the intensity of the internal contest despite Congress-led UDF's blowout mandate of 103 seats in the 140-member House.

Congress brass is disinclined to hold a formal headcount. Instead, observers will conduct one-to-one consultations with MLAs before the legislature party meets at 10.30am Thursday at KPCC headquarters. The CLP is expected to pass a resolution authorising party president to take the final call.

Let Vijay form govt, we won't disturb for six months: Stalin

Arun.Ram@timesofindia.com

Chennai: DMK will wait for TVK chief C Joseph Vijay to form govt, and "watch without disturbing for six months", outgoing CM MK Stalin told **TOI** on Wednesday.

Indicating that DMK didn't want a constitutional crisis or another election soon, Stalin said he expected the new govt to continue schemes introduced by his govt. "The new govt should continue with the free breakfast scheme for schoolchildren," he said when asked what topped his priority list.

AIADMK rules out support

▶Continued from page 1

AIADMK, which had earlier opened channels of communication with TVK, also ruled out support. "Under no circumstance has AIADMK offered support to TVK," party deputy general secretary K P Munusamy said.

TVK has 108 seats on its own but this will come down by one seat when Vijay gives up one of the two seats he won. The simple majority mark will also fall from 118 to 117 seats.

Rath played crucial role in Adhikari's campaigns

▶Continued from page 1

Rath, according to party sources, played a crucial role in Adhikari's campaigns in the Bhabanipur constituency, where the BJP leader triumphed over former chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee.

In a statement to a vernacular news channel, BJP leader and MLA-elect Kaustav Bagchi, who was present at the hospital said, "This was a targeted attack. The assailants followed Rath's car for a long time before pumping him with bullets. This is the handiwork of Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee. We will not rest until the criminals are identified. We will not cremate the body till then."

According to sources, Adhikari was on the way to the hospital.

"We have been preaching peace, but TMC has made the biggest blunder," newly elected BJP MLA Tarunjyoti Tewari said.

News of the incident spread quickly, prompting the deployment of a large police contingent in the area amid rising tension.

Senior police officers reached the spot and launched an investigation.

Efforts were underway to identify the assailants and ascertain the motive behind the attack, sources said. The incident has sent shockwaves through the state's political circles. PTI

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GLOBAL CITY CREDIT CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD., Srinivasnagar Bangalore Reqd Managers/FDC/Collection Executive with Experience in Banking Sector* Interested Can Mail CV to : info@gccsociety.co

ADMINISTRATION

MANAGERS

YUTORI EVENT SPACES Located in CBD, 20K Sft largest space. WE ARE HIRING EVENT MANAGER. Join our team at Yutori Event Spaces, Bengaluru and be a part of creating memorable celebrations. Role Includes; - Showing the venue. -Handling bookings & regular follow ups. - Coordinating with vendors & event teams. - Preparing rooms & halls for functions.- Managing events till completion. Requirements:- Good communication.-Basic laptop skills.-Responsible. - Willing to work during Events & Weekends. Location: Bengaluru. Package: 1Lac plus Email: info@safinaplaza.com

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED sales executives to visit engineering and other colleges to sell our AI training classes. Commission-only. Contact 9945517740

tender & notices

TENDERS

TENDER
CONVENTION CENTRE (KALYANA MANTAPA)
A management contractor is needed to a well-constructed and equipped Sidhartha Convention Centre (Sidhartha Kalyana Mantapa) located in C.A Site No. 17, 26th Main, 25th 'A' Cross, HSR Layout, 2nd Sector, Bangalore - 560102. Interested persons / firms/ companies with sufficient experience in managing such Centre successfully may contact the Honorary Secretary within 30th May 2026 of this advertisement to collect copy of the tender papers, and to resubmit the tender on or before 5 pm on Saturday the 30th May 2026. Honorary Secretary Mob. No. **9448485752.**

real estate

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

REQUIRED 2.5 Lakh SqFt Building on Rent for School in Vizag/ Chennai. Pravesh@Tirupatirealtor.com 9832067681

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

For Long Lease Commercial Building @ Pancard Road, Baner, Pune.
55,000 + Sqft Suitable for hospital/ corp offices grade A+ premium amenities. 9175952225 www.livmore.in

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dr. T. RAMALINGAMMA CHHETRI, D/o T. Bhaskar Rao and W/o Dr.Tej Bahadur Chhetri, presently R/at Site No. 167, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, MPS Mango Meadows, Phase 4, Nembekaipura, Bangalore-560049 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. T. RAMALINGAMMA CHHETRI, RAMALINGAMMA CHHETRI, RAMA L. CHHETRI, T. RAMA L. CHHETRI, RAMA CHHETRI and CHHETRI T. RAMALINGAMMA are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 06-05-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary VIJAYALAKSHMI .K at Bangalore.

I, Sonia ,W/O; Abhilash Nair ,R/O :C1, Advaitham, Anugraha Layout Kodigehalli, Hoodi,Blr - 560048. Have changed my name as Sonia Nair.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kavitha Madavaraj, Wife of Janarthanan Rajan, aged about 31 years, residing at Flat A301, SJR Primecorp Vogue Residences, Seetharampalya, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 declare that Kavitha Madhavaraj and Kavitha Madavaraj refer to the same person. Henceforth, I will use Kavitha Madavaraj for all legal purposes

I, Swarna Latha Kappagantu, W/o GNV Jayprakash, R/o D409 Shruthika Springfields Apts, 219/46,47/1 Singapura Main Road, Opp petrol pump, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560097, hereby state that post marriage my name has been changed to Swarnalatha Gonella vide Affidavit no. IN-KA52118270026220Y.

I , Kavitha Kalyan Kumar Mary, W/O; Kalyan Kumar Lakki Reddy ,R/O :NO.249, Arogyappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Thomas Town, BLR- 560084 .Have changed my name as Kavitha Kalyan Kumar.

I, Modi Sakshi Praveenkumar W/o Shubham Dashore R/o #304, A Block, Krishnageet Shelters, 16 E Cross Road, 1st Main Road, Pai Layout, B'luru - 560016 have changed my name to Modi Sakshi for all purposes.

I, Sanjaykumar Rajkumar Rai , S/O; Raj Kumar Rai , R/O : 203, Garuda Starfield Apartment, Outer Ring Road Mahadevpura, BLR-560048. Have changed my name as Sanjay Kumar Rai .

I Jagadish Sharanappa Nidugundi, H No 3 ABM Residency Kengeri, 560060 I changed my name from Jagadish to Jagadish Sharanappa Nidugundi vide affidavit dated 29.04.2026

LOST & FOUND

I Jyoti K. have lost my Certificate of BTech (2015) BPUT Board. If Found Please Contact: krishnajs2k26@gmail.com

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Fake notes with face value ₹55cr seized in 2024: NCRB

Crimes Against Senior Citizens See 17% Rise

Rajshekhar.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: At least 32,602 cases were registered for committing crime against senior citizens (aged above 60) in 2024, showing a rise of 16.9% in registration over 2023 (27,886 cases), according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data

Overall, 27,049 cases of murder were registered during 2024 against 27,721 in 2023. Personal enmity and disputes were the prime motives besides murder for gains. During 2024, 96,079 cases of kidnapping & abduction were registered, showing a decrease of 15.4% over 2023 (more than 1.13 lakh cases). Of the total crimes, 35.4 lakh cases were filed under the Indian Penal Code and Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita — rolled out in 2024 — and 23.4 lakh cases were lodged under special and local laws.

NCRB released a data of crimes comparing 19 metropolitan cities and said 8.4 lakh cognisable crimes were committed in 2024, a dip of 10.9% over 2023 (9.4 lakh cases). A total of 1,987 cases of murder were registered in these cities during 2024, showing a decline of 0.8% over 2023 (2,004 cases). Data also shows that 8.21 lakh fake Indian currency notes with face value Rs 54.6 crore were seized during 2024. On the enforcement side, authorities managed to seize 3.62 lakh kg of explosives, including RDX and TNT, compared to 10 lakh kg in 2023.

Data shows that 55,698 cases were registered for committing crime against scheduled castes (SCs), showing a decrease of 3.6% over 2023 (57,789 cases). As many as 9,966 cases were registered for committing crime against scheduled tribes (STs), showing a decrease of 23.1% over 2023 (12,960 cases). With 63,564 cases, there was a decline in cases of Arms Act in 2024 over 73,388 cases in 2023.

OFFENCES AGAINST DALITS

58.8 lakh cognisable crimes registered in 2024: 35.4 lakh IPC/BNS and 23.4 lakh SLL cases

Down 6% from **62.4 lakh** in 2023 (drop of **3.56 lakh** cases)

Crime rate fell from **448.3 to 418.9 per lakh** population

Share of total crimes: IPC/BNS **60.2%**, SLL **39.8%**

MAJOR CRIME HEADS

- **Murder: 27,049 cases,** down **2.4%** from **27,721** in 2023
- **Kidnapping & abduction: 96,079 cases,** down **15.4% from 1,13,564**
- **Crimes against women: 4,41,534 cases,** down **1.5% from 4,48,211**
- **Crimes against children: 1,87,702 cases,** up **5.9% from 1,77,335**
- **Juveniles in conflict with law: 34,878 cases,** up **11.2% from 31,365**
- **Crimes against sr citizens: 32,602 cases,** up **16.9% from 27,886**
- **Crimes against SCs: 55,698 cases, down 3.6% from 57,789**
- **Crimes against STs: 9,966 cases, down 23.1% from 12,960**

Gay dating app turns into extortion tool

Samad.Hoque
@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: It's a match. And then, it's a mess. Police said on Wednesday they will issue a notice to Grindr, a dating app for gay and bisexual men and the LGBTQ+ community, after finding gangs operating through the app to kidnap and extort people.

The latest was a late-night kidnapping and assault of a 22-year-old man who went to meet a match on Grindr in Manesar's Kasan around 12.15am on Monday. He was kidnapped by four men who forced him to make a money transfer. Police said the four are habitual drug users and targeted the victim to fund their addiction.

The men, who came in a white Swift car, intercepted the victim outside his house in Kasan, forced him into the vehicle, and drove him to an isolated area near Kasan hills. "They beat him up, threatened to kill him and demanded Rs 50,000. The assailants then took his phone, obtained the password, and transferred Rs 2,500 through a QR code before the victim managed to escape," a police officer said.

The person whom the victim befriended on the app initially began casual conversations and called him for a meetup, the officer said. Investigators said the case reflects a pattern seen in similar crimes linked to the app.

Many victims kept mum out of fear. "The accused often threaten to expose the victims to their families to extort money. Because of the social stigma surrounding sexual orientation, many young people become easy targets. In many cases, the victims are youngsters living alone in the city," the officer added.

After a case was registered, a crime branch team tracked the suspects — Ashish (19), Naresh Kumar (21), Shivam (19) and Aashu (25) — within hours.

Shrinking space for Muslim MLAs marks post-'14 era

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Shrinking space for Muslim legislators is emerging as one of the sharpest political markers of post-2014 era, as BJP's expanding footprint and Opposition's changing ticket distribution strategy have together pushed minority representation down in assemblies. Data show the number of Muslim MLAs in the country has fallen from about 339 in 2013 to around 282 now.

The decline has been steepest in states that matter most electorally. Uttar Pradesh, where Muslims account for nearly 19% of population, now has 31 Muslim MLAs in the 403-member House, down from 63. West Bengal has seen the number fall from 59 to 37, while figure for Bihar has dropped from 19 to 11 and for Rajasthan from 11 to 6.

While this is not only about the BJP, its nationwide rise has changed the incentive structure for elections. In many states, the party has won large mandates with very little Muslim candidature, pushing rivals to balance minority representation with broader caste and community arithmetic. In Bengal and Assam (where BJP contested 90 seats and won 82), BJP did not field any Muslim candidate this time, unlike in 2021 when in Bengal it had fielded nine and in Assam, eight. Assam BJP dissolved its minority cell soon after all its Muslim candidates lost. Nationally, BJP has only two Muslim MLAs — Achab Uddin from Manipur and Tafajjal Hossain from Tripura.

While this is not only about the BJP, its nationwide rise has changed the incentive structure for elections

The gap is stark. In Bengal, Muslims constitute about 27% of population but now account for only 12.6% of MLAs. In Bihar, they are nearly 17% of population but hold about 4.5% seats. In Assam, where Muslims comprise over a third of population, their assembly share is roughly 17%. Maharashtra and Karnataka have Muslim MLA shares of only 3-4%, despite Muslim population shares of above 10%. Congress has the highest number of Muslim MLAs at 61, followed by National Conference with 39, and Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party with 34 each. Kerala, J&K and Tamil Nadu remain among the better represented spaces.

The numbers underline a widening "representation gap" that parties may find harder to ignore. With several assembly polls ahead, pressure to field more Muslim candidates and rebuild minority outreach is likely to grow, especially among Opposition parties.

Justice Varma continues as HC judge despite resignation

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu does not appear to have accepted the resignation of Justice **Yashwant Varma** who, faced with a removal motion after discovery of wads of unaccounted money in his official residence in Delhi, had put in papers nearly a month ago.

His name figures at serial number four of the list of judges in HC official portal and is preceded by Justices M C Tripathi, Arindam Sinha and Ranjan Roy. This is because apparently President Droupadi Murmu has not yet accepted his resignation from the post of high court judge.

In his resignation letter dated Apr 9 addressed to the President, Justice Varma had said, "While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of the judge of Hon'ble HC of Judicature at Allahabad."

According to Article 217(1), a judge ceases to hold office if he/she resigns from office by sending a resignation letter "by writing under his hand addressed to the President."

A five-judge SC bench in the Gopal Chandra Misra case on Feb 15, 1978 addressed the issue of how the resignation of a judge comes into effect. It was unanimous that once the judge sends his resignation to the President, he is deemed to have ceased to be a judge.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — Sandeep Adhwaryu

34,878 cases registered against juveniles during 2024, up by 11.2%

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: NCRB's 'Crime In India' report brings into focus a worrying trend, with 34,878 cases being registered against juveniles during 2024, marking an increase of 11.2% over 2023 (31,365 cases).

A total of 42,633 juveniles were apprehended in 34,878 cases, out of which 34,648 juveniles were apprehended under cases of IPC and BNS.

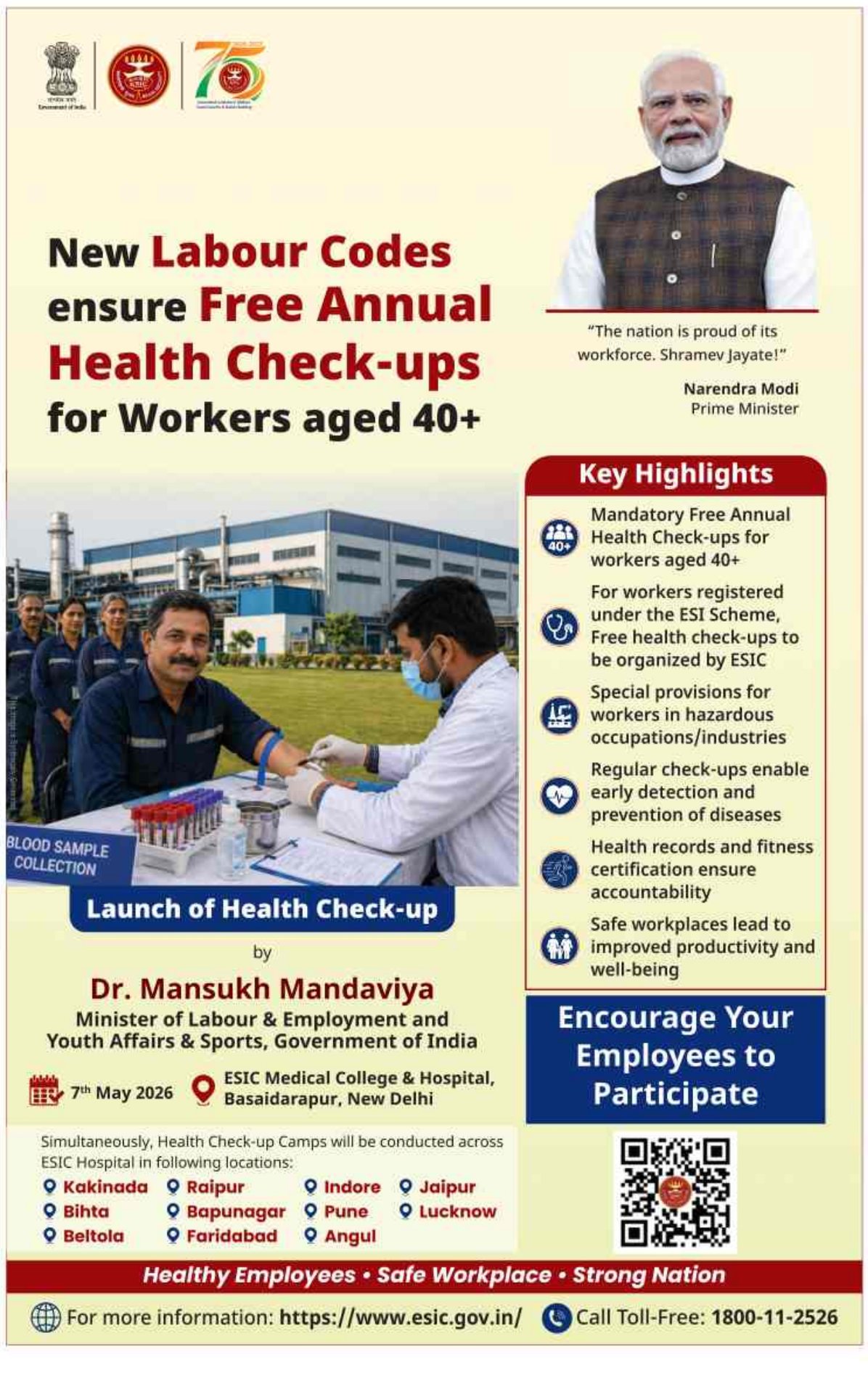
Majority of juveniles in conflict with law apprehended were in the age group of 16 years to 18 years (77.7%) (33,129 out of 42,633) during 2024. As far as education qualifications go, 2,857 were illiterate, 8,989 juveniles had studied up to primary level, 21,068 had education levels between primary to matriculation, and 8,301 had education above matric to higher secondary.

Data on living arrangements show most juveniles in conflict with law were living with parents (36,905).

Negligence claimed 495 lives daily on roads

New Delhi: The number of road deaths due to negligence — rash, careless or irresponsible driving — stood at 495 daily in 2024, as per the latest report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It said that nearly 1.81 lakh lives were lost in such accidents, an increase of nearly 4.4% over the previous year. The number of fatalities in 2024 is also higher than the figure road transport ministry had shared with Parliament, which was 1.77 lakh. The ministry is yet to publish its report.

As per NCRB (under home ministry), Uttar Pradesh reported maximum road deaths in 2024 due to negligence (25,158), followed by Tamil Nadu (18,676), Karnataka (16,232), Madhya Pradesh (15,440) and Maharashtra (15,249). All these states reported more road fatalities compared with 2023, indicating that Indian roads have become more unsafe. TNN



PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-MMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for Hiring of Bulldozer DB-155/Equivalent for continuous compaction and handling coal yard in CHP area for 1 year.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 150GATP/CHP-OPN/26-27/13/50007651** **"Procurement for Hiring of Bulldozer DB-155/Equivalent for continuous compaction and handling coal yard in CHP area for 1 year".** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 06/05/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GATP-44/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11248

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORT CORPORATION LTD.

(A JV of Govt. of India and participating State Governments)

Bid No: DM/MS/CPM-ME/306 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Tender Id: 2026_NCRTC_276582_1

Online Bids are invited for Construction of UPSRTC bus terminals and depots near the Meerut South and Modi Puram Namo Bharat stations, and development of bus shelters at different locations in Meerut, along with other associated works.

For detailed information and subsequent addendum/ corrigendum (if any), please visit NCRTC website **www.ncrtc.in** or CPP Portal **www.etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** from **08.05.2026 to 09.06.2026 (1500 hrs)**

S/d, CPM/Meerut

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

RFQ Tender Notice No.08/2025-26/CE(GVMC)/SE/(East)/EE(East)/GVMC/Dt:05.05.2026

Number of Work : 01 No; Value of Work : RFQ Tender
Tender Opening Date : 05.05.2026 @ 7.00 P.M; Closing Date : 22.05.2026 @ 5.00 P.M.
Note: Further Details at http://www.gvmc.gov.in
O/o the EE(East) Cell No:8187897572

Sd/- Commissioner

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.

D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

Ref. No. : F-8( ) RMSC/EPM/M-4/NIB-933/2025-26/122 Dated :- 04/05/2026

CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM

Bid for item:
1. Deep Freezer, Fowler Bed, Stead Bed, Foot Step, Syringe Infusion Pump, Glucostrip & Pulse Oxymeter (Handheld),
2. White Box (Sharp Container), & Transport Trolley (Wheel Barrow) Reserve for MSE, Rajasthan Only

are invited from interested bidders up to Date : 26-05-2026 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.dipronline.org** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN : MSC2526GLOB00056

Executive Director (EPM)
Raj.Samwad/C/26/2193 Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARMENT Office of the Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S, Division, Haveri

Sl.No.RDW&SD/Haveri/PB-4/Tender:02/2026-27/ 137
Date : 04-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) Last Date for Tender queries/ Clarifications : **11-05-2026** at : 11:00 hours (2) Request of Blank Tender Documents and Receipt of completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement from : **14-05-2026** at : 17:00 hours (3) Date of Tender Opening (If possible) : **15-05-2026** @ 17:30 hours

Inviting tenders of MVS O&M works of Haveri Taluk under JJM scheme.

Indent No :- (1) Providing Operation and Maintenance of Multi Village Water Supply scheme to Kanavalli and Other 8 villages in Haveri Taluk of Haveri District (RWSSD/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT8544/CALL-4)

(2) Providing Operation and Maintenance of Multi Village Water Supply scheme to Agadi and Other 7 villages in Haveri Taluk of Haveri District. (RWSSD/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT8413/CALL-3)

The blank tender documents can be downloaded through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the date of hosting the tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S Division, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/79/2026-27

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI

At.Post. Shirdi, Tal- Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No.(02423) 258671/258676
(Website - www.sai.org.in)
E-mail - hospital.purchase@sai.org.in

Re E-TENDER NOTICE

Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi invites online Re E-tender for the Supply & Installation of Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyser (Free of Cost) with 5 years Reagent Rate Contract for Shree Saibaba & Shree Sainath Hospital, Shirdi from primary manufacturer / Importer / company authorized distributor. The tender details will be available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in for downloading. For details and terms & conditions visit our official website www.sai.org.in

Tender submission starts date	07/05/2026
Pre-bid Meeting date	11/05/2026
Tender submission end date	27/05/2026

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,

DGIPR 2026-27/634

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORK

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/14, Dated: 30/04/2026. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No.;Tender No.;Description of Stores;Quantity;Due On; Tender Cost are as follows: [031]; 31252504D;** Set of Harnessed Cable for WAG-9HC Locomotives As Per Specification No. CLW/ES/3/0646/F; As Per Tender/Document; 20/05/2026; ₹ 0.00. **[032]; 29263005A;** MIG Wire Dia 1.2MM CU Coated Solid CO2 Class 1 IRSM-46/13 IS:6419-2004 [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 5%, Item Category : Normal , Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/Document; 20/05/2026; ₹ 0.00.

PR5/341 PCMM/CLW/Howrah

visit us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
e-mail:smm.rwflblr@gmail.com

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/03/2026-27 Dated 05/05/2026

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from for supply of the following two items, on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Sl. No.: 1. **Tender No.:** P2256302A. **Brief Item Description:** Replacement of 2 nos. of 400 KVA Transformers with 2 nos. Transformer of 500 KVA capacity and LT switch gear panel with associated works for Canteen substation as per Specification No.R WF/EL/P/2025-26/06. **Quantity:** 1 Set. **Tender Closing Date and Time: 18/05/2026** 14:00 hrs. **Sl. No.:** 2. **Tender No.:** P2265192. **Brief Item Description:** Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 5 Ton EOT crane for extension of wheelset stacking area of assembly as per RWF Technical Specification No.RWF/M&P/ASSY/2025/5 T EOT crane. **Quantity:** 2 Nos. **Tender Closing Date and Time: 28/05/2026** 14:00 hrs. **Pre-bid date 12/05/2026** 15:00 hrs. Tender corrigendum can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents, Specification and the corrigendum to the Tender will be available on the portal only.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

U. N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre

(Affiliated to B. J. Medical College, Ahmedabad)
Civil Hospital (Medicity Campus), Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380 016, Gujarat.
Tel : (079) 22684200 Website : www.unmicrc.org • E-mail : unmicrc@gmail.com

E- TENDER NOTICE (ONLINE)

UNMICRC – Emergency Related Tertiary Cardiac Care Super Specialty Teaching Hospital Invites E-Tender for:

Sn.	NAME OF E - TENDER	DATE OF UPLOADING OF E - TENDER
A: Lifesaving Product (Item) used for Implantation of Lifesaving Permanent Implant Product (Item), used for Lifesaving Cardiac Operations and Cardiac Procedures (Adult, Paediatric & Neonatal)		
1	E-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply of Cannula For Cardiopulmonary Bypass (CPB)	07.05.2026
B: Lifesaving Permanent Implant Product (Item), for Lifesaving Cardiac Operations and Cardiac Procedures (Adult, Paediatric & Neonatal)		
2	E-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply of Graft and Patch	07.05.2026
3	E-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply of Heart Valve and Heart Valve Ring	07.05.2026
4	E-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply of Sutures and Staplers	07.05.2026
5	E-Tender For Rate Contract For Supply of Robotic Consumables	15.05.2026

- Bidders need to register themselves with (n) procure tender management system of Govt. of Gujarat tender.nprocure.com to participate in E-Tender. Tender submission through tender.nprocure.com is mandatory.
- Interested Bidders full filling Eligibility Criteria are requested to download the tender document from tender.nprocure.com and Price Bid Submission is through digital mode only through tender.nprocure.com.
- For submission & other e-tender details, Please refer detailed NIT on E-tender portal at tender.nprocure.com Any queries / representations received other than the Pre-bid meeting will not be taken into cognizance. No verbal communication will be considered.
- UNMICRC reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever.

INF/ABD/125/2026 -UNMICRC

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

M.S. Building, Bengaluru-560 001

No. AGRI 8 AUD 2026 **Date:06.05.2026**

CIRCULAR

Dr. P.L. Patil, present Vice Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad will complete his tenure on 22.05.2026, The post has to be filled up as per the terms and conditions of Section 27 of The Universities of Agricultural Sciences Act, 2009.

Therefore, applications are invited from the candidates desirous of seeking nomination to the said post. The candidate who have served for 10 years or more as a Professor or equivalent cadre together with their full service, may apply by providing complete service details and submit the same along with necessary additional details / documents in quadruplicate to the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Agriculture, M.S. Building, Bengaluru-560 001 within 15 days of publication of this circular.

The applicant should submit the application through the proper channel and submit the application with the confirmation of whether there is any departmental inquiry / disciplinary action / contempt of court pending / not against to the applicant. For more details about application formats, visit **www.uasd.edu**

Sd/-
(John Prakash Rodrigus)
Under Secretary to Government
Agriculture Dept. (Services)

DIPR/CP/JA/525/2026-27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-12/1102/2026-27 **Date:05.05.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works mentioned below:

Name of the works: (1) Formation of Roads including asphalting, construction of RCC Side Drains, Inspection Chambers, Spur Culverts, Valve Cistern, Rain Water Harvesting & Water Supply Works at Sector-1 of Gowribidnur 4th Phase in Jarabandanahalli Village, Gowribidnur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (2) Formation of Roads including asphalting, construction of RCC Side Drains, Inspection Chambers, Spur Culverts, Valve Cistern, Rain Water Harvesting & Water Supply Works at Sector-2 of Gowribidnur 4th Phase in Jarabandanahalli Village, Gowribidnur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. (3) Establishment, Commissioning of 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant followed by 5 MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant along with 2 modules of 1.50 MLD each Common Effluent Treatment Plant with 1.50 MLD Capacity RO System & ZLD Facilities on total turnkey basis, including Operation & Maintenance of entire Plant for a period of 10 years at KWIN City at Phase-1 in Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

- Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **25.05.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/536/CCL/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/26/2025/2026-27 **Dated: 06.05.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of seized generated iron ore fines under respective notification through MSTC.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd.

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp

The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron /Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid.

Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.

Sd/-
Director,
Department of Mines & Geology

DIPR/CP/533/NR/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd block, Bengaluru -560011

No:EE/BSCC/TE&MCell/TEND/05/2026-27 **Date:06-05-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for preparation of DPR for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer (TEMC), BSCC on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing consultancy services for Feasibility Study for Development of Grade-Separated Interchange (Flyover-cum-Underpass) at Vega City Mall Junction on Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru under Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) **Approximate Value of Project Cost ₹. 7000.00 Lakhs, EMD amount: ₹. 1,40,000/-**
2	Providing consultancy services for Feasibility Study for Development of Grade-Separated at (11th main road, Marenahalli main road junction), Bengaluru under Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) **Approximate Value of Project Cost ₹. 1500.00 Lakhs, EMD amount: ₹. 40,000/-**
3	Providing Consultancy services for "Development, Implementation and Maintenance of Asset Management System (AMS) including GIS mapping, mobile application, database creation, and decision support system for South City Corporation under BSCC". **Approximate Value of Project Cost ₹. 80.00 Lakhs, EMD amount: ₹. 1,60,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded Through KPP portal from **07-05-2026** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **13-05-2026** at **11:30** am (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is on **19-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is on **20-05-2026** at **4:30** pm. **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC			
1.	Shed of extension of 10 TPD Segregation Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh - (Re-invite). **Approximate Amount : Rs. 1,27,36,826/-** **Earnest Money : Rs. 2,54,740/-** **Time Period : 06 Months** **Tender Fee : Rs. 3,000/-**	06.05.2026 at 03:00 P.M To 13.05.2026 at 2:30 P.M	13.05.2026 at 03:00 P.M
2.	Shed Extension at 300 TPD Wet Waste Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh- (Re-invite). **Approximate Amount : Rs. 2,42,31,884/-** **Earnest Money : Rs. 4,84,640/-** **Time Period : 09 Months** **Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**	07.05.2026 at 9:00 A.M To 18.05.2026 at 11:00 A.M	18.05.2026 at 11:30 A.M
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
3.	Renovation of Community Centre Sector 26, Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 56.46 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,12,917/- Time Limit : 03 Months	06.05.2026 To 13.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	13.05.2026 at 12.00 noon
4.	Construction of boundary wall for proposed Gaushala Phase-2 at Village Raipur Kalan Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 196.64 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 3,93,280/- Time Limit : 06 Months	06.05.2026 To 13.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	13.05.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com and Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

Accredited by NAAC with A++
Office of the University Engineer, Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru – 56

No:UE/DM/TENDER-NOT/JBC/BUB/ 01/2026-27 **Dated:06.05.2026**

E-Tender Notification

Bangalore University invites bids for the following tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Details of the tenders are available at e-procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Bids are to be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Bidders are requested to adhere to the time schedule prescribed in the tender.

Sl. No.	Description of the Tender	Tender amount in Lakhs	Category
1	Providing and fixing guarding (cradle guard) under high power transmission line (11KV) and low power transmission line (1.1KV) spacers to the sagged LT line at JBC,BUB.(Indent.No.50)	3.98	General
2	Providing Chain link fencing to 2 Acre land for Post Graduate Center at Jiganahalli village Sy.no.92, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara. (Indent.No.55)	26.53	Cat-IIA
3	Proposed Renovation Works for Library, Computer Lab and Classrooms at Mathematics Department, at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.57)	8.38	Cat-I
4	Proposed Renovation Of Auditorium & Chairman's Room at Psychology Department at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.58)	7.50	ST
5	Providing Flooring, False Ceiling, Toilet construction and painting to the Chairman room of Library and Information Science Dept. at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.59)	8.21	General
6	Providing Cupboard Shutters with Aluminium frame along with necessary fixtures at Bio-Chemistry Department at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.60)	8.14	SC
7	Proposed renovation for Organic & InOrganic Labs in Chemistry Department at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.61)	7.34	General
8	Proposed Renovation Works at Basavalingappa Institute for Development Studies (B-Bids) at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.62)	26.72	Cat-IIA
9	Providing Chain link fencing, Asphalting & Street lights to the Road connecting to New Ph.d hostel from Science Faculty Road Circle at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.63)	63.48	General
10	Providing Asphalting, streetlights to PG-2 Hostel road and Ph.D Hostel road at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.64)	294.92	General
11	Asphalting of road inside Dr.B.R Ambedkar Study and Research Centre at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.65)	3.66	General
12	Replacement of worn out HT and LT power transmission lines, RCC poles, Pin & Disc insulators at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.66)	64.57	ST
13	Providing flooring and other repair works to dining of PhD (PG-1) Hostel building at JBC,BUB. (Indent.No.67)	20.00	General

DIPR/CP/534/Zen/2026-27 **Sd/- UNIVERSITY ENGINEER**

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB / Store/2026-25 (334), Bhopal, Dated : 29-04-2026

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees(Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Fund Trail Solution	01	5,000/-	1,54,500/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	30/04//2026 at 1400 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e- mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
V	Bid Submission Start Date	11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo date will be announced Separately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

"पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार" G-12505/26

32001/150/2627 **GOVT. OF ODISHA**

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

'e' Procurement Notice No. CEMKS 01 OF 2026-27

1. Name of the work : **Cement Concrete Lining in Distributary No.9 from RD 0.00 km to RD 7.100 km off-taking from RD 38.145 km of Taladanda Main Canal.**
2. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 9,91,87,829.00
3. Bid Document Cost : Rs. 10,000.00 (online)
4. E.M.D : Rs. 9,91,900/-
5. Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "Special" Class
6. Period of Completion : 18 calendar months
7. Other details are as follows :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar	CEMKS MSD 01 of 2026-27	08.05.2026 10.00 hrs	25.05.2026 17.00 hrs	26.05.2026 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : **celmbbbsr@yahoo.co.in**

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
The Corrigendum/cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer & Basin Manager**
Mahanadi Kathajodi System
Bhubaneswar
OIPR - 32001/32252/1/1/26-27/0001

25001/91/2627 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
No : 2114 /WE, Dt : 05.05.2026

e-procurement Notice

1. Name of the Work : "Building Works."
2. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
3. Time for completion : As per Annexure
4. No of Work : As per Annexure
5. Summary for key dates is provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4		5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No-01 of 2026-27	Dt.14.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 29.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 28.05.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.30.05.2026 at 11.00 AM.	Will be intimated latter

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Any other changes/Corrigendums may be seen only in website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Er. Durjyodhan Behera
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Balasore
OIPR - 25001/25105/1/1/26-27/0002

Class 10 girl gang-raped; 1 held, 2 on run

Yogesh Nagarkoti | TNN

Pithoragarh: A Class 10 girl was allegedly gang-raped at knifepoint by three men in Champawat after she went missing from a wedding function she had gone to attend about 20km from the town, police said. A case was registered against three accused under BNS section 70(2) and Pocso Act on the complaint of the survivor's father, while one accused was arrested and two others were absconding.

Champawat SP Rekha Yadav said the minor had been living in Champawat town with her ailing father, who had come there for treatment. "On Wednesday morning, police received information that a minor girl had gone missing," he said.

"Police recovered the girl from a dairy. She said three persons raped her at knifepoint and later locked her in a room," Yadav said. Police sent the survivor to hospital for medical examination and cordoned off the area to collect evidence.

7 encounters in 24 hrs, 9 shot in leg in UP dist

Mohammad.Dilshad
@timesofindia.com

Agra: Nine accused were shot in the legs and 10 were arrested during seven police encounters across Muzaffarnagar district within 24 hours as part of a crackdown on those facing cases of robbery, dacoity, attempt to murder and offences under Gangster Act, police said.

The operations took place in New Mandi, Mansoorpur, Budhana and Kotwali Nagar areas, and included the arrest of two wanted accused carrying rewards of Rs 20,000 each.

Cops said the accused opened fire on police teams during the operations, following which there was retaliation. The injured accused were taken to the district hospital for treatment under police custody and later sent to jail after legal formalities.

Police recovered seven country-made firearms, pistols, eight spent cartridges, eight live cartridges, around 400 grams of silver ornaments, six motorcycles, a scooter without a registration plate and some cash during the operations. Officials said the recovered items were suspected to be linked to recent criminal activities in the district.

SSP Sanjay Kumar Verma said the arrested accused were involved in several criminal cases registered at police stations in Muzaffarnagar and Punjab. "Yes, seven encounters were carried out in the last 24 hours. The accused fired at police teams, and in retaliatory action, they were injured and arrested. Strict legal action is being ensured, and all accused are being sent to jail," he said.

Police said further investigation was under way.

Pocso-accused killer shot dead in encounter

Lucknow: A 29-year-old criminal wanted for the kidnapping, sexual assault and murder of a seven-year-old boy was shot dead in a police encounter in Mallawan area in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi district early Wednesday. SOG in-charge Rajesh Kumar sustained a bullet wound in the fire exchange, reports **Pathikrit Chakraborty**. The accused, Shahnoor alias Mehnuddin, had more than 15 criminal cases — including eight under the Pocso Act — pending against him and carried a Rs 50,000 reward on his head, police said. On May 3, Mehnuddin allegedly kidnapped the minor, sexually assaulted and murdered him. The boy's body was found on May 5. The encounter broke out around 3am near Babatmau area, about 50km from Hardoi city, during a checking operation launched to trace Mehnuddin. Cops spotted a suspicious biker and signalled him to stop, but the suspect allegedly tried to flee before opening fire at the police team. Mehnuddin sustained a bullet injury to his chest in retaliatory fire and was declared dead when taken to a hospital, police said.

Spent ₹65,000 for cops' Goa trip to find missing wife: MP man

Bhopal: A man from Madhya Pradesh has alleged that he was forced to spend Rs 65,000 to fund a police "search trip" to Goa to trace his missing wife. Satna police has removed two accused constables from active duty and sent them to police lines pending inquiry.

The 30-year-old woman is a mother of three children, including a three-year-old. Her husband reported her missing at Civil Lines PS on March 12. Despite registering the complaint, he alleged that there was little progress in the initial investigation. He claimed that a cop later told him that his wife had been traced in Goa, prompting the "search trip".

The complainant claimed he bore the entire travel expense of Rs 65,000, but the constables neither found his wife nor landed any concrete details on her whereabouts. He claimed he was pressured again for funds for another Goa trip. He also lodged a complaint on the CM's helpline. Satna SP Hansraj Singh said a probe has been ordered, adding that the deputy SP has been asked to investigate and submit a report.

Police sources, however, claimed the woman's location was found to be in Goa, along with that of a missing minor girl. TNN

Greater Hyd's 1st woman police chief goes on late night stroll, nabs Romeos

Hyderabad: B Sumathi, the woman police officer who played a key role in convincing top Maoists to surrender before Telangana police just a few months ago, recently got a taste of exactly how safe women feel in parts of Hyderabad after sundown.

After taking over as police commissioner of the newly formed Malkajgiri commissionerate, she spent a few hours in plainclothes on the streets of Dilsukhnagar after midnight on May 2, only to have multiple men approach her and some even making lewd comments.

The no-nonsense top cop pretended to be waiting for a bus. Police patrolling vehicles passed by a few times but did not stop as she had not informed the local police station. She remained in the locality for about three hours. At around 3.30am, a patrolling team constable noticed her. Soon, night duty officers reached the spot. During the operation, officers picked up more than 40 men, mostly teenagers and even middle-aged men for trying to solicit women standing alone or walking alone in the streets. Officials said many of the men were either drunk or had consumed 'ganja'. TNN

Midnight storm kills four farmers in Telangana

Hyderabad: Four farmers died in two separate wall collapse incidents while trying to protect their paddy produce around midnight after heavy rains lashed Luxettipet mandal in Telangana's Mancherial district during Tuesday's storm, reports **Nirupa Vatyam**.

At Gampalapalli village, Thanugula Nagaraju and his son Abhiram took shelter at a nearby structure when the rain intensified. Around 1am, a wall of the structure collapsed, killing Abhiram on the spot. Nagaraju, 50, was shifted to a hospital in Karimnagar, where he later died.

In a separate incident, Gundarapu Venkatesh, 24, from Kothuru village and Nelki Lachanna, 50, from Muthyampet village, were among 15 farmers who had taken shelter in a shed after covering their produce with polythene sheets. Both died in wall collapse.

SC questions if interfaith marriage is religious activity

▸ Continued from page 1

The bench of CJI Kant and Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, AG Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi — hearing the 'faith vs fundamental right' debate triggered by the controversial 2018 SC judgment quashing the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple custom restricting entry of women in the 10-50 year age group — asked whether an inter-faith marriage under the Special Marriage Act can be classified as a religious activity.

Justice Nagarathna said under Hindu customs, marriage is sacrament, in Islam, it is a contract, while under the Special Marriage Act, it is a statutory marriage, and asked if anyone is aggrieved by violation of her or his rights because of marriage, would it not be prudent to approach a civil court seeking protection of the right.

Khambata, assisted by advocate-on-record Shiraz Contractor Patodia, said that if it is a purely religious matter, the disputing parties need not approach SC, but a woman who loses her right to enter a religious place because of her marriage can approach a constitutional court for redressal.

Justice Sundresh said, "You are asking us to enter an arena where we must decide competing rights of two individuals or individual vs denomination, that is the group of followers' rights. How does it fall within the purview of judicial scrutiny by constitutional courts? We have thousands of cases pending. Should we not devote time to that? Competing rights and claims can be decided through civil suits."

The issue of what courts should prioritise when they are already saddled with huge caseload, which keeps growing, came on the the 10th day of proceedings, spread over almost four weeks, before the 9-J bench, setting up of which has cost SC at least four benches. Each bench on an average hears 50-60 cases daily. This means that hearings in at least 1800 cases got postponed because of the nine-judge bench.

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All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

Ref: No. AIIMS/GKP/RECT/JR/2026-27/27 Date: 06.05.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSTS OF NON-ACADEMIC JUNIOR RESIDENTS (17 POSTS) AT AIIMS GORAKHPUR

17 JR VACANCY AIIMS GORAKHPUR

Applications from eligible Indian citizens/ other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up various **Junior Resident** posts at AIIMS Gorakhpur, Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Walk-in interviews will be conducted on **19th of May 2026 at Administrative Block, AIIMS Campus, Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, UP-273008.**

Detailed advertisement along with annexures are available at institute's website: https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

11001/34/2627

RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY
CUTTACK-753003, ODISHA (NAAC-A++)

FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited, in online mode, from eligible candidates to fill up regular posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor (including backlog vacancies), in the Departments of Bengali, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Geography, Geology, Hindi, History, Mathematics, Odia, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics and Zoology, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack.

Detailed advertisements will be available on the University website **www.ravenshawuniversity.ac.in** as well as on the HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home. The application process shall be conducted entirely in online mode through the HIMS Portal: https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home from 12.05.2026 to 11.06.2026.** After submitting the application online, a printout of the same, along with all supporting documents duly self-attested by the applicant, must be sent to the **"Registrar, Ravenshaw University, College Square, Cuttack, Odisha-753003"** by Speed Post / Registered Post only so as to reach him on or before 20.06.2026 by 05.30 PM. The University reserves the right to fill or not to fill any post(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

For details of vacant Posts, essential qualifications, other terms and conditions, please visit the University website **www.ravenshawuniversity.ac.in** or HIMS Portal **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home**

No. 1720 Date. 06.05.2026

REGISTRAR

OIPR-11001/11008/1/26-27/0004

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda India's International Bank
https://bankofbaroda.bank.in

TENDER NOTICE

Bank of Baroda invites online Request for proposal (RFP) for **Empanelment of Creative and Media Buying Agencies**. Details are available on Bank's website https://bankofbaroda.bank.in under Tenders section and https://bobtenders.eproc.in

"Addendum", if any, shall be issued on Bank's website **https://bankofbaroda.bank.in** under tenders section and **https://bobtenders.eproc.in**. Bidders should refer the same before final submission of the online Tender.

Last date for bid submission: 18.05.2026 at 03:00 p.m.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 28.04.2026

Dy. General Manager
Marketing & Branding

(12/26-27)

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Government of India

NOTICE INVITING OFFERS FOR 2D SEISMIC ACQUISITION, PROCESSING AND INTERPRETATION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HYDROCARBONS (DGH), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, invites offers from eligible and qualified companies for undertaking **2D Seismic Data Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation (API)** in five (05) sedimentary basins along the East Coast of India, including the Andaman Basin.

The programme aims to achieve an indicative **5 km × 5 km seismic grid across the EEZ of the East Coast of India, inclusive of existing seismic data,** to delineate regional subsurface hydrocarbon potential and identify prospective areas for further exploration, thereby strengthening India's energy security and reducing import dependence.

The detailed **Notice Inviting Offers** document, containing **bid packages, their geographical locations, scope of work, bid document, and contract document,** will be made available on the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

The **Bid Publishing Date** is 14 May 2026. Interested companies may visit the above website for complete details and updates.

Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), OIDB Bhawan, Tower A, Plot No. 2, Sector 73, Noida – 201301
Tel: +91-120-2472000| Email: hodndr@dghindia.gov.in

बिहार सरकार
समाहरणालय, सारण।
(मद्य निषेध एवं उत्पाद विभाग)

अधिहरित (Confiscated) वाहनों के सार्वजनिक नीलामी हेतु अति अल्पकालीन सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि सारण जिला अंतर्गत मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 (यथा संशोधित) के अधीन विभिन्न थाना कांडों / उत्पाद वादों में जब्त एवं समाहर्त्ता सह जिला दण्डाधिकारी,सारण के न्यायालय द्वारा सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत राजसात किये गये अधोलिखित सारणी में अंकित वाहनों की सार्वजनिक नीलामी (**Public Auction**) **"जहाँ है, जैसे है"** के रूप में अपर समाहर्त्ता (विभागीय जाँच), सारण की अध्यक्षता वाली पांच सदस्यीय कमिटी द्वारा **प्रथम नीलामी दिनांक–26.05.2026 एवं आवश्यकतानुसार उसके अगले दिन तथा द्वितीय नीलामी दिनांक–05.06.2026 एवं आवश्यकतानुसार अगले दिन तथा तृतीय नीलामी दिनांक–11.06.2026 को 11.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, समाहरणालय सारण में सम्पन्न की जायेगी।** इच्छुक आवेदक / आवेदिका उक्त आलोक में विहित शर्तों एवं बंधेजो के साथ उक्त वाहनों की सार्वजनिक नीलामी में भाग ले सकते है।

नीलामी हेतु वाहनों का विवरण :–

क्र0 सं0	अधिहरण वाद सं0	राज्यसात वाहन के अभिरक्षा का स्थान	अधिहरित किये गए वाहन का प्रकार / रजिस्ट्रेशन नंबर / चेचिस / इंजन संख्या	मोटरयान निरीक्षक द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम मूल्य	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में)	अभियुक्ति	वाहन स्वामी का नाम एवं पता
01	477/2025	भगवान बाजार थाना कांड सं0–311 / 2025	स्पेलेंडर मोटरसाईकिल KA35K-7284 CH.NO. 05A16C31963 EN.NO-05A15M27726	3500.00	700.00	चेसिस अस्पष्ट स्क्रैप।	प्रकाश, पिता–नीलकान्त, पता–TQ, ALAND, R/O-159, JAMBAGA, DIST-GULBARGA, कर्नाटका, पिन–585101

01.नीलामी की प्रक्रिया माननीय न्यायालय के आदेश के आलोक में प्रभावित हो सकती है। इस संबंध में नीलामी में सफल केता का किसी भी प्रकार का दावा मान्य नहीं होगा। विस्तृत जानकारी सारण जिला के वेबसाईट www.saran.bih.nic.in पर या कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, सारण से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 002483 (EXCISE) 2026-27

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

जिला पदाधिकारी,
सारण।

FAKIR MOHAN UNIVERSITY
Vyasa Vihar, Nuapadhi
Balasore, Odisha, Pin-756089
Phone: 06782-275787
email-id: registrarfmuniversity@gmail.com
Website: www.fmuniversity.nic.in

Registrar

Letter No.: FMU-Estt.(T)-II-04/2026/4148 Date: 02/05/2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY POSITIONS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates as per UGC eligibility criteria (UGC Notification dated 18th July 2018 and subsequent amendments) to fill up various regular faculty positions, including backlog vacancies, in the Post Graduate Departments of Fakir Mohan University.

Online Applications, through **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home,** are invited in prescribed application form from the eligible candidates for appointment to the following teaching positions on regular basis:

Subject	Total No. of Posts	Name of the Post and No. of Vacant Position		
		Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Applied Geology	02	01-ST(W)	01-ST	--
Bioscience and Biotechnology	01	01-SC	--	--
Botany	06	01-SEBC(W)	01-SC, 01-SEBC	01-UR, 01-SC, 01-SC(W)
Business Management	02	01-UR	01-ST	--
Chemistry	03	01-ST	--	01-SEBC, 01-UR
Commerce	06	01-UR	01-SC, 01-ST(W)	01-SC, 01-UR, 01-UR(W)
Computer Science	01	01-SC	--	--
Economics	02	--	01-SEBC(W)*	01-SEBC
Education	01	01-UR(W)	--	--
Environmental Science	01	--	--	01-UR(W)
Geography	01	--	01-ST	--
History and Archeology	06	01-ST	01-SC(W), 01-ST	02-UR, 01-SC(W)
Journalism and Mass communication	03	01-UR	01-SC, 01-SEBC**	--
Mathematics	01	01-SEBC	--	--
Odia	01	01-UR	--	--
Physics	02	01-ST	01-ST(W)	--
Political Science	02	--	01-SC	01-ST
Population Studies	04	01-UR (W)	01-ST(W), 01-SEBC	01-UR(W)*
Sociology	01	--	01-ST	--
Urdu	01	--	01-SC (W)	--
Zoology	06	01-SC(W)	01-UR, 01-ST(W)	01-SEBC(W), 01-UR, 01-SC
Total	53	15	20	18

Abbreviation: [**UR** = Unreserved; **SEBC** = Socially and Educationally Backward Classes; **SC** = Scheduled Caste; **ST** = Scheduled Tribe; **W** = Woman]

*** Lien vacancy:** The post is likely to continue until the completion of the lien period of the lien holder. However, if the lien holder re-joins the post, the selected candidate will be relieved. Otherwise, the selected candidate may be absorbed into the post.

****Likely to be vacant due to superannuation on 31.05.2026**

Note:

1) In case of non-availability of suitable women candidates, the posts shall be filled up by male candidates from the same category.

2) An appropriate number of posts for Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor shall be reserved for candidates under the PwD category, in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, subject to the availability of the eligible candidates.

IMPORTANT DATES	
Link available for online application form from	7th May, 2026.
Last date for submission of online application form	7th June, 2026.
Last date for hard copy of online generated application form with required documents	17th June, 2026 up to 05:00 p.m.

Application Fee

1. The application fee is Rs.1000/- for General and SEBC candidates.
2. The application fee is Rs.600/- for SC and ST candidates.
3. There is no application fee for PwD candidates.
4. The fee must be paid online through the portal and is non-refundable.

Candidates are required to send a hard copy of the downloaded completely filled up application form along with all relevant documents only through Speed Post addressed to:

The Registrar,
Fakir Mohan University,
Vyasa Vihar, Balasore 756089,
Dist: Balasore (Odisha)

The University reserves the right to modify the posts, number of vacancies and to cancel or modify this notification without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Registrar

4 held for cloning WhatsApp a/cs on 2 devices for overseas scams

Nitasha Natu & Mateen Hafeez | TNN

Mumbai: What began as a probe into a digital arrest scam led cyber police to a high-tech operation where messaging and video calling apps like WhatsApp were cloned dozens of times on the same device before shipping it overseas to facilitate global cybercrime. Four men were arrested from Tripura in this connection and police are looking for their associates.

Investigators found this gang had cloned 40 WhatsApp accounts on two devices, using SIM cards registered in the names of unsuspecting Indian citizens, and shipped them to Cambodia.

#DontGetScammed
Gift TOI to your loved ones and protect them from scams. Call 85 95 124 124

A 2025 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report stated transnational crime groups in East and Southeast Asia have emerged as global market leaders in cyber-enabled fraud, money laundering and underground banking.

The digital fraud incident dates back to Dec 2024 when a Mumbai-based designer was defrauded of Rs 33.5 lakh. The woman had received a call from an individual posing as a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) representative, who claimed her mobile number was being used to send threatening messages and it would be deactivated in 2 hours.

The psychological pressure intensified as the "Delhi cyber crime department" got in touch with her next. A man posing as "IPS officer Rajeshwar Pradhan" from the department informed her, over video call, that she was a suspect in a money laundering probe. To heighten the ruse, the fraudsters sent her forged documents bearing the official letterheads of the CBI and the Delhi police. She was told an FIR had been lodged against her and she had been placed in "digital custody" for 7 days. On the fraudsters' instructions, she liquidated her mutual fund savings and transferred Rs 33.5 lakh into a "secret supervision account" for verification. The scammers thereafter vanished. Realising she had been duped, the woman lodged a complaint with the West cyber police station.

A team supervised by DCP Purushottam Karad and senior inspector Suvarna Shinde began a meticulous audit of the financial and digital footprints. They discovered her funds had been dispersed across 5 different bank accounts. But the pivotal clue lay in the communication logs.

One of the phone numbers was used exclusively for WhatsApp calls, leading cops to a trail that stretched to Tripura.

The operation in Tripura revealed an organised logistical chain. According to the police, a SIM card sales agent, Abhijit Sheel, provided SIM cards—registered in the name of unsuspecting Indian citizens—for the racket. To avoid detection, Sheel roped in bus drivers to deliver the cards to co-accused, Pritam S. The driver's contact details and vehicle number were shared with Pritam in advance.

Once in possession of the cards, Pritam would insert them into basic handsets and share the phone numbers with co-accused Shantanu Sen and Shubroto Burman. The gang used third-party cloning apps (available online) to clone 40 WhatsApp accounts in 2 devices. The numbers shared by Pritam were keyed into cloned WhatsApp accounts, triggering OTP on the basic handset.

The OTPs were sent by Pritam to Burman and keyed into the cloned WhatsApp accounts. The "loaded" devices were collected by a wanted accused who shipped them to Cambodia. Police suspect the devices were used in scam compounds of Cambodia to make fraud calls globally. The Tripura syndicate reportedly earned lakhs in commission for the OTPs and devices running multiple WhatsApp accounts.

From Tripura, the police team—comprising assistant inspectors Nitin Gachhe and Poonam Jadhav, and sub-inspectors Vijay Ghorpade, and Deepak Tayade—arrested Sen, Burman, Sheel and one Jaidev Roy. While Pritam is on the run, the arrests yielded a massive cache of evidence, including 360 SIM cards, fingerprinting moulds, a money-counting machine, laptops, phones and various banking documents.

'TRANSNATIONAL CYBERCRIME GRPS IN SE ASIA'

What a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, published in 2025, says

'Market leaders' in cyber fraud

- Transnational organised crime groups in East and Southeast Asia have emerged as global market leaders in cyber-enabled fraud, money laundering and underground banking
- In US alone, authorities reported more than $5.6bn in financial losses to cryptocurrency scams in 2023, with an estimated $4.4bn attributed to 'pig butchering' schemes most prevalent in Southeast Asia
- 'Pig butchering' schemes are long-term investment frauds where criminals build social relationships with victims to manipulate them into investing in fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes
- Regionally, countries in East and Southeast Asia combined have lost up to an estimated $37bn in 2023

Organisational structure of cyber-enabled fraud operations: How it works

- Cyber-enabled fraud operations have a **pyramid-like structure of a criminal network.** The scam operators are at the bottom and report to team leaders, who, in turn, are overseen by managers
- The compounds inside which they operate rent space to them at a premium; in return, they are guaranteed a stable power and internet connection, and other services, as well as 'safety'
- Offices of various sizes are available for rent, and some larger operations may rent entire floors or buildings

Court slams 'systematic failure' as two rivers turn black

Partha.Behera @timesofindia.com

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh high court has taken suo motu cognizance of alarming industrial pollution in the state's two rivers and observed that the situation reflects a "deeply disturbing and regressive state of affairs" and raises serious concerns over regulatory failure. Acting on media reports, a division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal on May 4 flagged the deteriorating condition of river ecosystems due to unchecked industrial discharge in the Shivnath and Kharun rivers.

The high court noted reports of mass fish deaths in Shivnath river near Mohbhatta-Dhuma village. Investigations linked the pollution to the alleged discharge of untreated, spirit-contaminated effluents from a liquor manufacturing unit. The contamination reportedly turned the river water black, killing lakhs of aquatic organisms and posing health risks to nearby residents.

The bench termed the situation a "systematic failure in enforcement" by state authorities and the Chhattisgarh environment conservation board.

₹58cr digital arrest fraud: No direct link shown, two get bail

Rebecca.Samervel @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A sessions court has granted bail to two suspects in a Rs 58-crore digital arrest fraud case—one of the biggest such in India—in which a retired pharmaceutical executive was threatened and coerced into making payments to various bank accounts from Aug-Sept 2025.

The court gave relief on Monday to one of the suspects, Chiragkumar Chaudhari (30), who had spent seven months in jail, after finding merit in the argument that no financial transaction or monetary benefit had been directly traced to his own accounts. "The prosecution has not filed any documentary evidence along with the chargesheet to show the nexus of the applicant with other accused... There is no evidence collected against the applicant that he monetarily benefited from the alleged offence or any financial transaction is traced out in his bank account," the judge said.

Chaudhari was accused of acting as a facilitator by providing a company's bank account to siphon off Rs 25 lakh of the extorted money. Police alleged he got commissions in cash or cryptocurrency. Chaudhari's lawyer, Arjun V Lingalod, said the case against him relied solely on the statement of a co-accused, which lacked evidentiary value at the bail stage.

In a separate order on Tuesday, the court gave bail to the other suspect, Zaid Mughal (26), a cryptocurrency trader who was arrested in Nov 2025, while noting that the prosecution failed to show that he was a conspirator in the initial fraud. Through his lawyer, Nazneen Khatri, Mughal said he was a legitimate currency trader on an online cryptoexchange and had no knowledge that the Rs 24 lakh traced to his account were proceeds of the crime.

"There is nothing placed on record to show that the applicant received the investment from [the various entities through which money was routed]... knowing that the said investment is the proceeds of the digital arrest fraud. Merely dealing in cryptocurrency is not an offence..."

In the two orders, the court observed that since the investigation has been completed and the chargesheet filed, further custodial interrogation is unnecessary. It also noted that many other co-accused had already been released on bail.

Nishant's political entry hailed as new era

▶ Continued from page 1

BJP had 14 ministers in that govt, formed after NDA's landslide in the 2025 polls. Sources said **Nishant**, who has been on a "sadbhav yatra" across the state since his father quit as CM and moved to the RS on March 8, agreed to assume the ministerial role after a meet at Nitish's residence Wednesday between Union minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh and JD (U) national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha. They convinced Nishant that joining the ministry will strengthen the party, sources said.

Declaring the beginning of the "Nishant era" in Bihar, he said ex-CM Nitish's son made up his mind about joining govt in deference to the wishes of the people he met across the state. "Each of our workers wanted him to become the deputy CM during the govt oath-taking ceremony held last month, but he remained adamant about going among the masses and knowing their issues before accepting the post," Kushwaha said.

Besides Nishant, two new faces from JD(U) are scheduled to take oath – Shailesh Kumar and B S Kushwaha.

Mann, BJP trade barbs after Punjab blasts

Times News Network

Chandigarh/New Delhi: A political battle has erupted in Punjab over back-to-back blasts in Jalandhar and Amritsar, with BJP and SAD criticising state govt over law and order, and CM **Bhagwant Mann** accusing BJP of trying to create unrest "on the pattern of Bengal" to win 2027 polls.

BJP turned to DGP Gaurav Yadav's suggestion of Pakistani spy agency ISI's involvement to cause disruptions on Operation Sindoor anniversary to assert the Aam Aadmi Party neta was making divisive statements to draw political mileage.

BJP to pursue every legal recourse to remove Mann

"It is such an insensitive statement," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said, highlighting the contradiction between Mann's allegation and Yadav's statement. BJP state chief Sunil Jakhar warned his party would pursue every legal recourse to get "an irresponsible Mann" removed.

As Punjab woke up to news of the twin blasts, Mann, said, "This is BJP's style of working — in any state where they want to contest elections, they create riots, carry out small blasts, and divide people on the basis of religion and caste."

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal called for Mann to resign, pointing there had been three blasts in 10 days — including the one on Rajpura rail tracks on April 27.

Explosions part of ISI conspiracy, claims DGP

▶ Continued from page 1

DGP Yadav told the media on Wednesday that no group had claimed responsibility for the Amritsar explosion, while a "non-existent organisation" calling itself Khalistan Liberation Army, owned up the Jalandhar incident. He said "some ISI henchmen were getting such acts carried out by misleading the youth", and attempting to create a fake narrative that Punjab is disturbed.

"We assume that, given the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor (May 7), this is part of a design by ISI to cause disruption in Punjab," he said, adding the state "is fighting a proxy war on behalf of India against Pakistan".

Police, BSF and Army teams reached the spot within minutes, said Yadav, who held a joint meeting with Army officials, and reviewed the security situation in a separate briefing with the police commissioner and other senior officers.

In Jalandhar, police commissioner Dhanpreet Kaur said that the blast occurred just yards from the entrance of the BSF Punjab Frontier headquarters, a busy stretch leading to the main entrance of the city.

The commissioner said investigations were on and "we have solid leads".

GIB chick's death jolts Guj to revive breeding centre plan

Kapil Dave & Himanshu Kaushi | TNN

Ahmedabad: The death of a critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chick has jolted Gujarat govt to revive a breeding centre proposal that had been in bureaucratic limbo for years.

The chick, born in March through the painstaking "jump start" technique at Kutch sanctuary, reportedly fell to predators, despite 50-odd staffers deployed to protect it.

Forest department now plans to build a high-fence predator-proof enclosure, modelled on a functional facility in Rajasthan, and bring two chicks and an adult male from Rajasthan to begin a captive breeding programme.

Govt, in a communication issued after the chick went missing, confirmed: "Simultaneously, habitat improvement measures such as Prosopis juliflora removal, strengthening of fenced enclosure, predator translocation, and water management are being undertaken by the forest department to maximize the survival chances in future attempts."

Pakistan hands over body of Ladakh minor after 46 days

Srinagar: Around 46 days after a nine-year-old boy from Kargil drowned in Suru River and was swept into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Pakistani authorities Tuesday handed over his remains to Indian officials at Teetwal-Keran crossing in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, **reports Naseer Ganai**. Ladakh police later received the body and transported it to the child's native village, Hunderman, in Kargil, on Wednesday morning for the last rites, officials said.

On March 20, the boy, Zulqarnain Ali, and his friend were playing near the river when they both fell into the water.

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: +91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403 web site : www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

No: F 55 () PA/CE(SBM)/SBM-2/DLB/VTS/2026/8216 Date: 01/05/2026
Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)
UBN NO: DLB2627GLOB03431

Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Directorate of Local Bodies for "Selection of System Integrator for Design, Supply, Implementation and Operations & Maintenance of QR Based Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) for Solid Waste Management across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Rajasthan under Swatch Bharat Mission (Urban) project".

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State; and LSG Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs 137.32 Crore**

DIPR/C/7885/2026 State Mission Director, SBM (U)

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029
Phone: 080-29753354/56, Email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

No: KBOCWWB/NOTIFICATIONS/2026-27 Date:06.05.2026
e-Tender Notification

Tender is hereby invited by Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board from interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid document for below mentioned tender.
1) Supply and Installation Work of Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Transit Accommodation in • Obadenahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District. • Devakathikoppa Industrial Area, Sidlipura Village, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District. • Yamunapura Site at B.K Kangrali Industrial Area, Belagavi District. • Badanaguppe- Kellamballi, Industrial Area, Badanaguppe Village Kasaba Hobli Chamarajanagara Taluk, Chamaraja nagara district. • KIADB Industrial Area Kapnur at Kalaburgi District. • Plot 1,2,3&4/P2 & Plot no. 94 KIADB Industrial Area Nandur at Kalaburgi District.(Call-2).
2) Constrcution of Transit Accommodation in Sy. No. 15 at Godampalli Village, Bidar Taluk, Bidar Dist.(Call-2).
Tender shall be submitted electronically through K.P.P.Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission is as per K.P.P.Portal. For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/- Joint Secretary, KB&OCWWB
DIPR/CP/543/HITEC MEDIA/2026-27

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for **Spec No.**PMM 31-e-27/2026. **Nature of Work:** Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of Relay & Protection panels with BCUs along with SAS equipment at 220/33kV Nelapadu, 220/33kV Lingayapalem, 220/132/33kV Vizianagaram substations & bay extension works at various Substations in Kadapa, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam Zones **Date & Time of availability of Tenders:** 06.05.2026 at 05:00 PM. Web: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**
RO.No:GMCC/APTRNSCO/29/26-27 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Premises & Estate Dept., LHO Amaravati, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad-500001, Ph: 040-2338 7503
PROPOSED INTERIOR WORKS AT AO, SBILD AND OTHER OFFICES AT TIRUPATI.
TENDER ID: LHO/AMR/P&E/2026-27/05/01
State Bank of India (SBI) invites tenders for pre-qualification of Architectural & Project Management Consultancy Firm (APMCF) from experienced architects/firms in a two-bid system (technical & price bid) for the captioned work. Estimated Project Cost is Rs. 22 Crores.
The interested parties may please log on to: https://sbi.bank.in→SBI In the News→Procurement news. The last date for submission of applications in the prescribed format with supporting documents is on or before 3.00 pm on 28.05.2026. Corrigendum/addendum, if any, in the matter will be published only on Bank's above-mentioned websites.
Place : Hyderabad, Date : 07.05.2026 Sd/- Asst. General Manager (P&E)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 9646122219)
Tender Enquiry No. QW-347/PO-W Dated 06.05.2026
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of 12900 no. L.T. Fuse units for distribution transformers as per drawing attached manufactured from prime mild steel channel 75x40mm (5.7 Kg./ meter), M.S. Flat 40x6mm conforming to IS: 2062/92 & section details as per IS 808/1989 & IS 1730/1989 and tolerances as per IS 1852/1985. LT Fuse Unit structure should be fitted with 2 no. LT Shackle Insulators per Phase i.e. 6 Nos. LT Shackle Insulators per unit of standard make conforming to IS 1445 with latest editions and amendments. All metal parts shall be given a coating of red oxide primer. Nuts, Bolts and washers shall be black. The Fuse unit supplied should also conform to detailed specifications, guaranteed technical particulars and approved drawing attached along with. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **06.05.2026** from **3:30 P.M.** onwards.
NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.
C-561/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11252

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)
BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1079 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Replacement of existing HT/LT Overhead line by HT Covered Conductor/LT AB Cable in Magadi & Tavarekere Sub Division in Magadi Division BESCOM.
Bid Documents available: 08.05.2026 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 30 days from the date of Publication. **Opening of Bid Document:** 31st day from the date of Publication.
The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.), INDIA, Website: www.sgpgims.org.in
Ph.- 0522-26680045-8, 2668700-800-900, Fax- (0522) 2668017, 2668078
ONLINE GeM-BID INVITED ON GeM-PORTAL
Online GeM-Bid notice on GeM portal for Operation of Operator consol & Maintenance of telephone Cable infrastructure at SGPGIMS Institute and Apex Trauma Centre. Bid details are as under:-

Sl.No	Particulars	Bid Number	Date
1	Operation of Operator consol and Maintenance of telephone Cable infrastructure at SGPGIMS Institute and Apex Trauma Centre	GEM/2026/B/7508675	06.05.2026

The eligible bidders should submit their bids online only "in the submission module of GeM Portal".
ADVT. No.: I/08/SE/Elect/2026-27 Dated: 06.05.2026 Director

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, IT Section, Annexure-2 Building, GBA Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No: GBA/2026-27/SE0028 Date: 06.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender schedule for Providing 92 IT Manpower to Department to Information Technology of Greater Bengaluru Authority Under e-Procurement System.
(1) Tender Inviting Authority: **Deputy Commissioner - IT, GBA, (2)** Tender Accepting Authority: **Special Commissioner - IT, GBA, (3)** Tender Reference: **GBA/2026-27/SE0028, (4)** Date from which bid document is ready for download through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka: **06.05.2026, (5)** Last date for submitting clarification if any: **18.05.2026 @ 1:00 p.m. (6)** Pre bid meeting: **18.05.2026 @ 4:00 p.m. (7)** Last date and time for uploading of tender in KPP Portal: **06.06.2026 @ 5:30 p.m. (8)** Time and date of opening of tenders: Pre-Qualification & Technical bid and Technical evaluation: **08.06.2026 @ 11:00 a.m. (9)** Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial bid (Tentative): **09.06.2026 @ 11:00 a.m. (10)** Pre bid meeting venue: **Office of the Special Commissioner, Revenue and IT Section, Annexure-1 Building, GBA Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002, (11)** Address for communication: **Office of Deputy Commissioner, IT Section, Annexure-2 Building, GBA Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002, Contact Mobile Number - 94482 59312, Email id: dycomm-it@bbmp.gov.in, (12)** Place of opening of tender: **Online at KPP Portal, (13)** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Only).**
Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under this tender documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.
Sd/-, Deputy Commissioner-IT Greater Bengaluru Authority

e-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH
e-Auction Notice No.: LEASE-KGP-26-04 Dated: 06.05.2026
For & on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 03 (three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website. **Category:** Parcel. **Catalogue No.:** LEASE-KGP-26-04. **Date of e-Auction:** 14.05.2026. **Auction Start Time:** 10.30 hrs. **Auction Closing Time:** 17.10 hrs. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.
(PR-132) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: pdadvt@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in Ph: 080-22969300, 22969301
Date: 06.05.2026
RFP NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Managing Director, BMRCL invites open e-tenders from eligible applicants, who fulfill the prescribed eligibility and qualification criteria for the following Outdoor Advertisements in BMRCL Network;

Sl. No.	Tender Name	RFP Notification	Bid Security	Last Date for submission of Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Bids
1	Request for Proposal for Grant of Concession to Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain Advertisements on Selected Piers & Portals of Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink & Blue lines of the BMRCL Network.	BMRCL/PD/ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/2026-27/RT/ 08 DATED: 06.05.2026	INR 83.00 Lakhs	05.06.2026 up to 5:00 PM	06.06.2026 at 5:15 PM

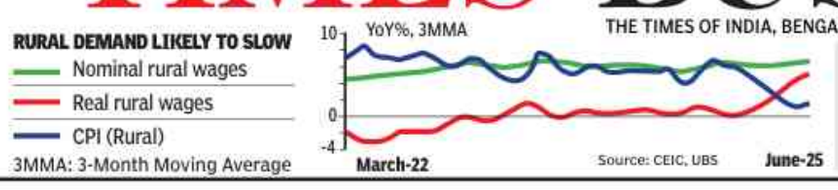
For more details, visit our e-tendering portal:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The Request for Proposal (RFP) will also be available in our website **www.bmrc.co.in**
Sd/- Director (Finance)

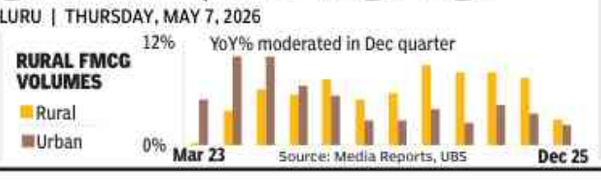
MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Chitfund Division, MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Phone : 080-22264021-25
e-mail: msil.chitfund@msilonline.com
No: MSIL/CF/02/2026-27/Call-2 Dated: 07.05.2026
SHORT-TERM E-TENDER
(through e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Proposals are invited from eligible Chartered Accountant Firms for appointment **to provide Financial Review and Accounting Services for Chif Fund Division for a period of one year.** Detailed Tender document containing scope of work, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions can be downloaded from e-portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Manual applications shall not be accepted.
The last date for submission of proposals is **16th May 2026. before 3:30 P.M.** The Company reserves the right to amend or modify the eligibility criteria as deemed fit to suit its requirement.
Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CHIT FUND)

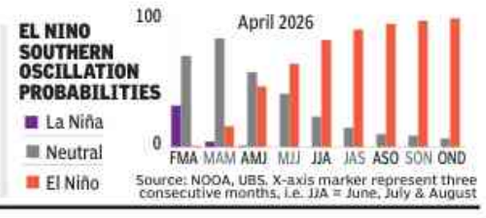
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

Rural demand may come under pressure in FY27 led by moderation in agriculture income, higher inflation, weak agriculture output, and risk of budget for rural spending schemes being curtailed. There is also a more than 60% chance of El Niño conditions emerging during May-July 2026, and persisting through end of 2026







Paytm logs FY26 profit at ₹552 crore; first since listing

Bengaluru: Paytm's parent firm One97 Communications posted its first full-year profit since listing, reporting an FY26 net profit of Rs 552 crore compared with a loss of Rs 663 crore a year earlier. Its revenue rose 21.8% to Rs 9,291 crore from Rs 7,625 crore. In the March quarter, net profit stood at Rs 183 crore, compared to a loss of Rs 545 crore a year ago, while total income grew 14.4% year-on-year to Rs 2,442 crore. The fintech firm is navigating regulatory fallout from action on Paytm Payments Bank and is pivoting towards merchant payments, lending distribution, and AI-led automation. Revenue from financial services distribution rose 52% year-on-year to Rs 2,594 crore in FY26, while merchant gross merchandise value increased 27% to Rs 6.5 lakh crore in the March quarter. Consumer UPI gross transaction value grew 46% year-on-year in the March quarter, while monthly transacting users rose to 7.7 crore. TNN

Meesho's revenue up 44% in March quarter

Bengaluru: E-commerce platform Meesho's revenue rose 44.4% year-on-year to Rs 3,646 crore in the March quarter, while it continued to narrow losses and scale its AI-led operations across engineering, logistics and advertising. The SoftBank-backed firm reported a loss of Rs 160 crore in the March quarter, narrowing from Rs 190 crore a year earlier but widening sequentially from Rs 110 crore in the Dec quarter. For FY26, its income rose 32.3% to Rs 13,099 crore from Rs 9,900 crore in the year-ago period, while the loss for the period narrowed to Rs 572.3 crore from Rs 1,674 crore a year earlier. TNN

Arvind arm acquires 61% stake in US firm for $136 mn

Bengaluru: Arvind, through its wholly owned subsidiary Arvind Advanced Materials (AAML), has acquired a nearly 61% controlling stake in US-based Dalco-GFT for $136 million, marking the textile group's entry into the American technical textiles market. Dalco-GFT manufactures specialised needle-punched non-woven fabrics used across sectors such as automotive, industrial, construction, and furnishings. TNN

Hope rally: West Asia peace deal talks lift sensex 941 pts

Crude Falls Below $100/Bbl, Rises Again After Trump Threat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A report that the US and Iran were inching closer to a preliminary deal to end the war in West Asia pulled down crude prices sharply, strengthened the rupee against the dollar and led to a rally in bond markets globally. This in turn led to a late rally on Dalal Street that lifted sensex by 941 points on Wednesday to close near the 78,000 mark with banking & financial services stocks contributing the most to the index's gain.

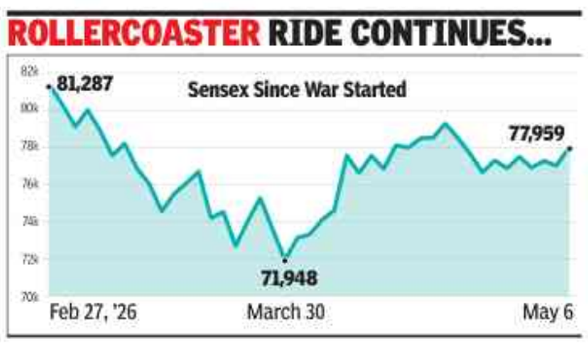
Some short covering during the closing hours of the session also helped the rally, market players said.

The rally added nearly Rs 6 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market cap at Rs 472.8 lakh crore, official data showed.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, the rally in the domestic markets was on the back of a risk-on sentiment, driven by easing US–Iran tensions and China's diplomatic engagement, which helped contain crude prices, though the trend remains headline-sensitive. "Global cues were further strengthened by strong AI-led tech earnings and large fund-raises, while yen-led dollar weakness aided EM flows. Domestically, favourable political cues, improving infra executions, and ECLGS 5.0 approval remain supportive, especially for MSME sectors."

Stocks sensitive to oil prices reacted sharply. Airlines leader IndiGo that's been facing high fuel costs leading to higher-priced tickets for its passengers, rallied to close 6.6% up while ONGC that prices its crude based on international prices and benefits more when crude prices are higher, closed 3.1% lower.

According to a note by Ponmudi R, CEO, Enrich Money, a wealth-tech platform, the US President Donald Trump's decision to pause Project Freedom, the plan to guide ships through the Strait of Hormuz that had threatened the fragile ceasefire, boosted investor sentiment globally. In addition, reports that the US and Iran were closing in on a one-page MOU to end the war "collectively eased near-term escalation fears and renewed hope for a peace deal, driving a broad-based advance across global markets as most markets ended firmly in the green and energy prices slid on expectations of easing supply disruptions."



Key Tata Trust meet on Friday challenged in HC

Reeba.Zachariah
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Mumbai: Two days before a crucial board meeting of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), a legal challenge threatens to derail proceedings. A 61-year-old Thane resident, Suresh Tulsiram Patilkhede, has moved the Bombay high court to block Friday's meeting, arguing the current SRTT board is unlawful and should be barred from taking decisions.

Friday's agenda includes a review of SRTT's nominee directors on Tata Sons' board, a move that could trigger an attempt to remove vice-chairman Venu Srinivasan amid differences with chairman Noel Tata over a potential listing of the Tata Group holding company.

Patilkhede turned to the court after receiving no response to a complaint, filed through lawyer Katyayani Agrawal, to the Maharashtra charity commissioner alleging that SRTT's board is in violation of the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act (MPT Act).

Anticipating legal moves, SRTT had filed a caveat through Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas in the court on Monday, ensuring it is heard before any ex parte order is passed. The matter is expected to be heard on Thursday, with Abhishek Manu Singhvi appearing for SRTT.

At the heart of Patilkhede's petition is a 2025 amendment to the MPT Act that caps lifetime trustees at 25% of a board where the trust deed does not explicitly provide for such appointments. The plea argues SRTT breaches this threshold, with three of its six trustees — Noel, Srinivasan, Jimmy Tata, Jehangir Jehangir, Vijay Singh and Darius Khambata — designated as perpetual trustees. It further says the 1916 will and codicil of Sir Ratanji Tata contain no enabling clause for lifetime trusteeship.

The case names nine respondents, including Maharashtra govt, the charity commissioner, SRTT and its trustees, and seeks directions to bring the trust into compliance.

Patilkhede relies on a legal opinion by former Supreme Court justice Krishna Murari, who says the MPT amendment introduces a statutory cap on life trustees. He concludes that trustees in breach must step down and seek reappointment as term trustees.

Freshworks to lay off 500 employees

Chennai: Software service company Freshworks will lay off around 500 employees, or roughly 11% of its workforce, citing plans to ramp up investments in AI-focused product development and related business areas.It estimates about 11% reduction in headcount and approximately $7 million to $9 million in charges in the upcoming quarter.

Dennis Woodside, chief executive and president of Freshworks, in an analyst call, said the restructuring is made to focus and invest more on the employee experience (EX) business, which is growing at 27%. "We consolidated our strategy, increasingly focusing on the EX business and focusing on CX acquisition with better unit economics. That led us to rebalance our teams and spend more toward EX, and to run the CX business to drive profitability and cash," he said. TNN

Pronto raises $20mn; valued at $200mn

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Instant domestic help startup Pronto has raised a fresh $20 million from Lachy Groom, co-founder of robotics company Physical Intelligence, and an early investor in Zepto. The funding extends its ongoing Series B round to $45 million and values the company at $200 million.

The funding comes about a month after the startup announced the first tranche of the round. Since then, daily bookings have increased from around 18,000 to 26,000, according to founder and chief executive **Anjali Sardana**, who told TOI that the company is targeting 70,000 daily bookings by the end of July.

"The biggest thing that has changed is that we have grown a lot," Sardana said. "In certain parts of NCR, within a 1 to 1.5 kilometre radius, we are already doing 1,600 bookings a day."

The Gurugram-based startup operates an app-based platform that allows users to book workers for household chores. "Users usually make their first booking as an emergency backup, and as they recognise the quality and convenience, they transition into power users," she said.

On average, users now place three to five bookings a month, while the top 10% of customers account for 40% of total bookings. Some power users place more than 20 bookings a month.

The company said the number of professionals on its platform has grown from 1,440 in January to about 6,500. Sardana noted that around 40% of workers joining the platform are first-time entrants to the workforce. "A lot of them are women who may have spent years outside formal work and are now monetising the skills they already use at home," she said. Others are transitioning from informal domestic work, security services, and call centres.

Pronto is operating at over 65% utilisation, reflecting higher demand density across existing micro-markets. The company is also seeing increased demand for smaller lifestyle tasks such as unpacking luggage, kitchen preparation, and post-party clean-ups, which now account for roughly 5–10% of bookings.

The startup has expanded beyond core cleaning services into categories such as car washing and gardening, and is piloting home cooks in Bengaluru.

Sardana also outlined broader ambitions beyond household services. "The vision for Pronto is to organise and formalise informal labour across sectors," she said, adding that the company is evaluating expansion into areas such as retail staffing, warehouse labour, and construction support.

Even as investor interest in the segment grows, Sardana cautioned that profitability across the category remains some time away due to sustained discounting and competition. "There will probably be another 24 to 36 months of irrationality in the category," she said.

Mphasis sues Coforge over exec 'poaching'

In US Court, Mphasis Seeks Curbs On Hires, Data Misuse

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Blackstone-backed Mphasis has filed a lawsuit in a US court against IT firm Coforge and former employee Brijesh Khergamker, alleging breach of contract and misuse of confidential information. Coforge told TOI that it is evaluating potential counterclaims in the matter.

Mphasis is seeking injunctive relief to bar Khergamker, for one year, from working—directly or indirectly—on its key financial services client, the Charles Schwab account through Coforge or its affiliates, and from soliciting Mphasis clients or employees. It has also asked the court to restrain the use or disclosure of its proprietary information and to ensure the immediate return of any such material in the defendants' possession. TOI has reviewed the complaint.

The Mphasis case comes two years after Wipro sought Rs 25 crore in damages from its former CFO Jatin Dalal for breach of contract after he joined Cognizant immediately after leaving the company. Khergamker joined Mphasis in 2013 and rose to the role of vice-president, serving as the sales leader for Charles Schwab. He resigned in June 2025 and exited in July. Mphasis later learned that Khergamker had joined Coforge and was working on the same client account. Coforge competes directly with Mphasis in the IT services market. Mphasis has also alleged that Coforge has been actively poaching its senior employees, including Babu Mani, Himanshu Gupta, and Sudeep Mehandru. The company claims this gives Coforge an unfair competitive advantage, as these executives had access to sensitive proprietary data, client information, and strategic insights. Mphasis issued a cease-and-desist notice in Feb 2025 to the former employees and Coforge over the alleged breaches; Coforge responded through legal counsel in March 2025.

Mphasis alleges contract breach, targets Schwab account role; Coforge denies claims, weighs counteraction

Responding to TOI, Coforge said, "We deny all allegations of wrongdoing in the complaint, and we intend to vigorously defend ourselves and our employee in this matter. We are also evaluating counterclaims that we may assert in this matter. Over the past few years, several senior leaders have joined Coforge from competing firms to be part of Coforge's growth story, as Coforge is perceived as an action-oriented and aspirational employer brand." Mphasis did not respond to TOI's queries till press time.

KPIT Q4 net up 1.9%; buys Israel firm for $120mn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Mid-tier IT firm KPIT Technologies reported March quarter revenue of $185 million, up 1.9% quarter-on-quarter in dollar terms and 1.8% in constant currency. Year-on-year, revenue grew 4.3%. For FY26, revenue stood at $724.8 million, rising 4.8% in dollar terms and 1.3% in constant currency. EBIT margin improved sequentially to 15.9% from 15.6%, but declined from 17.3% a year earlier. For the full year, margins fell to 16.2% from 17.2%.

"We saw 12% growth year-on-year... and secured $349 million in new engagements in Q4, one of the strongest quarters in terms of deal wins," said CEO Kishore Patil. The total contract value of deals won in the quarter stood at $349 million.

Patil flagged multiple external challenges impacting the automotive and mobility sector, including supply chain disruptions, EV policy shifts, and geopolitical uncertainties, particularly in the last quarter. Despite a near-term slowdown in EV investments in some Western markets, the company reiterated that electrification remains a long-term trend. KPIT also flagged near-term revenue pressure from the ramp-down of two large programmes, including one with Renault that has reached its natural end. Another EV-linked engagement was discontinued by a client shifting focus to hybrid and conventional technologies.

Management said FY27 is likely to be stronger than FY26, with improved growth visibility. KPIT said it will acquire a 100% stake in Israel-based automotive cybersecurity firm Cymotive Technologies for up to $120 million (about Rs 1,138 crore).

IT's new reality: Scattered hikes and tighter margins

Companies Stagger Hikes, Tighten Costs Amid Margin Pressures And Uncertainty

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The good old days of predictable April hike cycles are passe for IT firms. What was once a dependable hike cycle has given way to single-digit increases and a wait-and-watch approach — often leaving employees in the dark about when, or even if, raises will come.

For many IT companies, this reflects a familiar playbook of cost management, now applied with greater intensity. Salary hikes are being deferred or scattered through the year, while people costs are increasingly used as a routine lever to protect profitability. Increments are no longer uniform or time-bound; instead, they are calibrated to business conditions. The impact varies across the workforce. Junior employees tend to be relatively protected, receiving more modest adjustments. In contrast, mid-level and senior executives are seeing far more sporadic increases, closely tied to performance, margins and demand visibility.

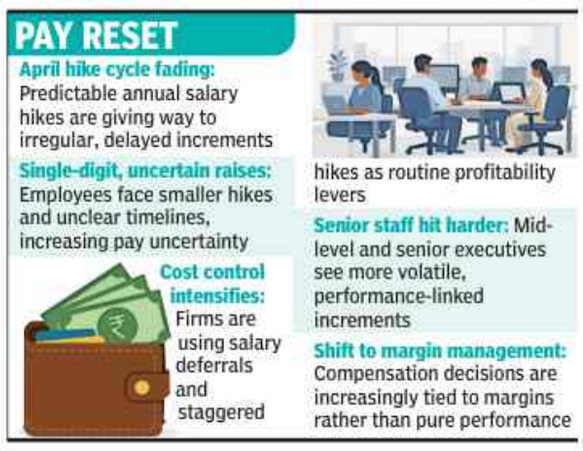
Compensation is becoming more conditional. Recent actions by companies underscore this shift. Wipro, for instance, rolled out salary hikes in March this year after a gap of nearly 18 months. The previous round came in Sept 2024, barely nine months after the prior merit cycle. For the current fiscal, barring TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech have yet to clearly spell out the timing of salary hikes, reinforcing the growing uncertainty around pay cycles. At the heart of this transition is a deeper structural question: how companies deploy savings generated from workforce optimisation. The risk is that firms rely too heavily on cost-cutting — deferring hikes, tightening performance filters and reducing headcount — without reinvesting enough into building an AI-ready operating model.

Increasingly, the shift is from performance management to margin management, with employee costs treated as a short-term lever. This change is also being driven by the normalisation of layoffs as a management tool. Once considered a last resort, layoffs are now used more systematically to manage costs. Tighter performance evaluations and operational efficiencies are reinforcing this approach, creating a more stringent environment for employees.

From an industry standpoint, Zensar CEO Manish Tandon attributes the trend to margin pressures and persistent uncertainty. "Salary hikes are permanent commitments, while demand conditions remain dynamic. Companies want to retain flexibility, and that's why many are deferring or staggering increases over time." He, however, said that Zensar rolled out salary hikes on time. Phil Fersht, CEO of HFS Research, draws a distinction between reactive and strategic responses. In his view, many firms are using margin pressure as a short-term lever rather than fundamentally redesigning their operating models for an AI-native world. "The real story is which firms are investing in the productivity gains AI promises, rather than just pocketing the headcount savings. That's the accountability question enterprises and investors should be asking right now."

Examples like Cognizant's Project Leap highlight this tension. The programme, aimed at improving margins, is expected to cost $230 million to $320 million, including substantial severance expenses that could affect thousands of roles. As AI-driven deflation lowers the cost of work, these trends are only accelerating. Companies are leaning more on productivity pressures and workforce optimisation to sustain margins.

Ray Wang, CEO of Constellation Research, points to broader margin compression across industries, with investors increasingly focused on revenue per employee. AI-driven financial simulations now allow companies to adjust cost structures with far greater frequency. Meanwhile, Peter Bendor-Samuel, chairman of Everest Group, expects these pressures to intensify over the next two to four years, driving deeper changes in operating models, compensation structures and workforce composition.



India's GCC count crosses 2,100 in FY26

Revenue Nears $100 Billion, Workforce Expands Steadily To 2.3 Million

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: India's global capability centre (GCC) juggernaut continues to gather momentum. Over 100 new GCCs were added in FY26, bringing the total to 2,117 centres. According to the latest Nasscom-Zinnov report, these hubs employ more than 2.3 million professionals and generate revenues nearing $100 billion. Over a five-year period, the expansion has been steady and broad-based. The number of GCCs in India has grown from 1,600 in FY2021 to an estimated 2,117 in FY2026, marking an increase of around 32%. Over the same period, revenues rose from $61.4 billion to $98.4 billion, a growth of about 60%. The workforce also expanded from 1.7 million to 2.3 million employees, an increase of about 35%. Additionally, Nasscom's earlier projections from the 2024 GCC landscape report pegged the FY2024 base at over 1,700 GCCs; this has now been revised upward to 1,855 GCCs, indicating stronger-than-expected growth.

INDIA'S GCC PLAYBOOK

Year	FY 2021	FY 2026 (E)
Number of GCCs	1,600	2,117
Revenues	$61.4bn	$98.4bn
Employees	1.7mn	2.3mn

Source: Nasscom

India is also emerging as a global AI powerhouse, backed by a talent base of over 250,000 AI professionals and more than 1,200 centres of excellence, strengthening its leadership in enterprise AI. At the same time, the GCC ecosystem is moving up the value chain. Around 46% of centres now operate as portfolio or transformation hubs, up from 42% in FY21. Notably, 27% of new GCCs reach this stage within five years, compared to nearly a decade earlier. Leadership roles are also evolving, with 64% of site heads holding dual mandates, combining global business ownership with local centre leadership. The report estimates that nearly 75% of GCCs could evolve into portfolio or transformation hubs by FY2030, reflecting a shift towards end-to-end ownership, IP creation, and AI-native operations.

The Nasscom-Zinnov report also notes that the maturity scorecard has been rewritten: GCCs are increasingly measured on outcomes delivered rather than processes owned. Nasscom president Rajesh Nambiar said, "India's GCC ecosystem is undergoing a fundamental reset. The shift from scale to value is now well underway, with AI acting as the catalyst." AI is also reshaping GCCs' hiring agenda. The report said that hiring is being recalibrated through internal redeployment and AI-powered capability building.

More than 510 GCCs have been established since FY24, marking the highest two-year intake, with 96% carrying advanced mandates, including engineering, R&D, or product development charters. About 63% focus on product and portfolio ownership, while nearly 49% are building AI, ML, or data science capabilities from day one.

Most are anchored around a strong digital core spanning cloud, automation, cybersecurity, and broader digital transformation. "The India advantage today is unmistakable — one of the largest and fastest-growing pools of AI and digital talent in the world. That advantage is now translating into something far more structural.GCCs are increasingly moving beyond execution to take ownership of products, platforms, and AI-led transformation, and three quarters will operate at high maturity by 2030," said Pari Natarajan, CEO of consulting firm Zinnov.

A thought for today

Things don't have to change the world to be important

STEVE JOBS

Vijay's Vijay

TN poll result represents a larger question for Indian politics & Vijay faces a question himself

Vijay's win in Tamil Nadu is nothing short of a wake-up call for career politicians and political parties. Most poll pundits had cautioned, a fanbase is not easy to turn into votes. What the punditry missed, as did DMK and ADMK, is how Vijay's message for change – a call to protest status quo politics and governance – resonated across Tamil Nadu. Yet, the Vijay phenomenon was, in hindsight, difficult to miss. One only had to look at Nepal's tumultuous elections last year to see how a youthquake vaulted a political fresher, rapper Balendra Shah, to pole position – a transformation very similar to Vijay's. That said, there had been nothing – no violence or deadly protests – to suggest that TN's election will be a shape-shifting upheaval. What is to follow is still work-in-progress.

It is very rare, globally, for a political novice – no election experience, no administrative role ever, no long political party career – to go from first-timer to frontrunner, achieving top office on debut. It usually takes some preexisting advantage. Imran Khan and Trump nurtured deep and long business, elite and political ties before their debuts. Zelenskyy, another political novice, registered the name of his TV serial – where he played a schoolteacher who becomes Ukraine's president after an anti-corruption rant – as his party's name. Kejriwal, who became CM on poll debut, became a household name thanks to the anti-corruption movement. In all these cases, voters chose them to convey message to established netas.

Vijay's fabulous victory is, similarly, voters' rejection of ossified politics, dynastic political parties. It is also a generational shift, especially in how communications tech is deployed by performers – aces at the game – whether Nepal's Shah or Vijay, earlier Zelenskyy or Argentina's Milei, also a TV pundit. For career netas, there's something deeply unsettling, and worrying, that populist anger can swiftly hand the top job to those with zero governance experience. Most political parties, once in govt, treat voters as subjects. But if they take this too far, the voter will reach way beyond. Stalin's govt boasted policy consistency for investors. But its disconnect with many voters grew. The question for Vijay, as it was for all newbies in hotseats, is how will he govern. But he'll start with loads of goodwill.

Message In A Bottle

Crises force us to find better ways to do things, be it making tyres or bottling beer

Trump and Iran better make a deal soon, or your beer will cost quite a bit more. Not that beer comes from the Gulf. They hardly make any. And glass bottles – 80% customers prefer them to cans – are entirely homemade. Problem is, gas to fire glass furnaces is largely imported, and right now its supply is seriously tight. So, when you're nursing a drink next time, just think of ways around this glass crisis. Because, there's always a way.

Blockade of Hormuz has knocked out 20% of world's oil and gas. Serious, but nothing compared with Japan's conquest of SE Asia in 1942, which took out 90% of rubber supply. But then, US invented synthetic rubber, and others figured out ways to make rubber from two hardy plants – Russian dandelion and guayule shrub. Of course, when Japan was beaten, everybody went back to cutting forests and planting more and more rubber trees. But now, eco concerns have put guayule back under the spotlight. Tyres made from guayule rubber have been run at 305kmph, at Indycar.

For beer, a better way's been around for decades: aluminium cans. Yes, aluminium needs 15x more energy to make, but you need only 11g of the metal to make a 330ml can, as against 200g glass for a bottle of the same volume. That's an 18x weight difference. Lower freight costs, no breakage, faster and cheaper cooling, efficient recycling... And we are world's second largest aluminium producer, after China.

We must make the most of our strengths. Gulf states became major aluminium producers, despite not having much ore, with their cheap gas-based electricity: energy makes up a third of aluminium production costs. Dubai has capitalised on its location to run the largest standalone sugar refinery, despite not growing any cane. And Brazil, biggest cane producer, has been running cars on cane-derived ethanol since the oil shocks of the 1970s. Now, India's mandated E20, and is planning for E85 and E100 fuels. In electric vehicles, lithium was beginning to look like the last word, but Chinese dominance has pushed research into sodium batteries. In electric motors, too, China's control of rare earths has increased interest in induction motors. Glass bottles are a relatively minor problem.

Mario, meu amigo

How many a page, how singular a partnership we shared

Bachi Karkaria

1970s Bombay. Khushwant Singh had pulled *The Illustrated Weekly of India* out of its dog-eared irrelevance in dentists' waiting rooms, and taken it to kudos, controversy and a circulation thrice that of **TOI**. The latter was still the stolid Old Lady of Bori Bunder; we were the OG 'brat'. In his *sanctum sanctorum* sat RK Laxman, legendary creator of the 'common man' but himself inaccessible to all but God's appointee on earth, the **TOI** editor. One level up sat the open-door aristocrat, Mário João Carlos do Rosário de Brito Miranda. Our *Weekly* shared this magazine floor with *Dharmayug*, *Femina, Filmfare* and *Science Today*, but Mario was almost exclusively our cartoonist. Almost exclusively mine too.

He'd embellished my very first *Weekly* contribution. It was on Bombay Parsis, who for me, fresh from a *qaumi*-sparse Calcutta, were an overwhelming, eccentric breed. Goan Mario, however, was as steeped in Bombay as vindaloo in vinegar. For the next decade, his cartoons enriched, not merely illustrated, my tongue-in-cheek cover stories. We were so routinely paired that, on occasion, I'd be complimented for someone else's piece with Mario's unmistakable imprimatur. While I didn't take proxy credit, I did find a sly way of pumping up my byline, persuading him to incorporate it into his main, page-wide illustration. This led to his constant joke, 'Bachi wants a byline bigger than the heading.'

erratica

Unlike the third floor's impenetrable hierarchies, junior-most men could routinely barge into our cartoonist's cubicle with a desperate 'Mario, copy's fallen short, please extend your D/c to 3/col.' With mock despair, he'd promptly add a buxom woman here, a bandaged-tail dog there.

Some years before his passing in 2011, I visited him at his 300-year-old Goan-grandee mansion in Loutolim, with its vaulting altar, sprung ballroom floor and bullet-pocked fortified outer walls. My old friend looked as debonair as ever, but his once all-observing eyes were now glazed by dementia. Last weekend's birth centenary tributes unleashed a surge of memories as detailed as that incomparable carnival on his sketchpad.

***

Alec Smart said: "*Moorhi* results. *Jhaal* for TMC, puffed rise for BJP."

Kerala's King Cong? Satheesan

Congress had stumbled in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, installing a 'high command' compromise instead of the people's choice. Kerala has voted for a political front, but also a face

PK Yasser Arafath

Though Kerala has returned UDF to office with a thumping majority under the leadership of LoP VD Satheesan, the question remains, who will become chief minister? From the moment the exit polls were released, predicting UDF's win, the contest for CMship has revolved around three principals: Satheesan, former home minister Ramesh Chennithala, and KC Venugopal, the LS MP widely regarded as Rahul Gandhi's closest political aide.

All three have supporters installing massive flex boards across the state, alongside ritual offerings and prayers in temples and churches. As tensions have intensified, some of these boards have been defaced, removed, or destroyed, transforming the succession struggle into a visible public spectacle.

One exit poll suggests Satheesan has 21% support as the new CM, other surveys put it closer to 30%, well ahead of his contenders. Yet Chennithala and Venugopal continue to command substantial factional capital within the party. One day after the election results were announced, Chennithala openly articulated his claim to CM's post, while Venugopal received a grand, carefully staged welcome from party workers at New Delhi airport, upon his return from Kerala. This was clearly a pressure-building tactic. But what is indisputable is that Satheesan has been UDF's public face for this assembly election.

UDF's win has followed significant consolidation among minority communities, stemming from perceptions of problematic use of police force by the Pinarayi Vijayan govt. Equally significant was Pinarayi's social engineering through Vellappally Natesan of SNDP, whose ultra-communal statements and divisive rhetoric deepened anxieties. These developments were further intensified by the circulation of proxy Islamophobic narratives, by sections of the Left leadership and its cyber networks, generating a strong anti-CPI(M) sentiment among Muslims and Christians, who together constitute nearly 45% of the state's population.

This is where Satheesan emerges as a critical figure. Along with a cohort of younger Congress leaders, he became the party's most forceful voice against what many perceived as the Left's 'majoritarian turn'. He confronted pervasive minority-phobic narratives, refused accommodation with divisive leaders, and strategically resisted entrenched caste oligarchies, often describing their current leadership as obsolete, while the other two leaders maintained strategic silence or low-intensity responses.

Satheesan also succeeded in aggregating into UDF fold numerous micro-collectives, from marginalised communities associated with the Left in previous elections. Simultaneously, in a context marked by rising unemployment, his sustained engagement with younger voters – especially Gen Z voters – has been particularly significant.

What INC has repeatedly failed to grasp is that voters do not necessarily endorse the candidate with the widest intra-party support. Elections are equally about grounded leadership, inseparable from accumulated political legitimacy and public trust. In Kerala, voters did not merely choose a political front; they invested in a face, a promise, and a vision. Between that face and the electorate exists an implicit political contract, and any breach of that contract can have deeply destabilising consequences.

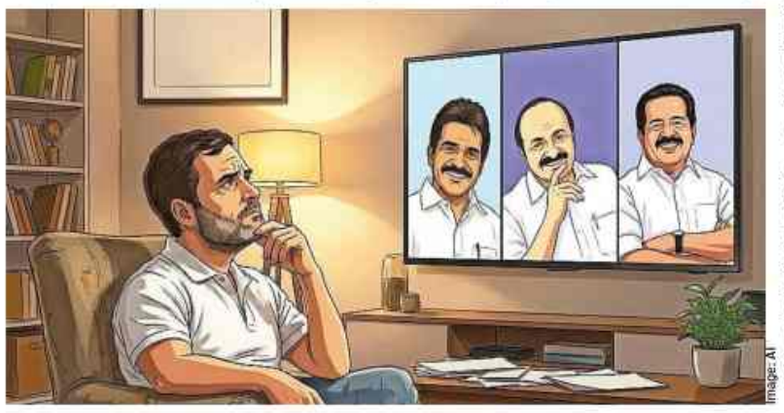


Image: AI

Recent history offers Congress an important lesson: Don't undermine electoral victories through poorly managed leadership transitions, as in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Having defeated a formidable BJP in 2018, Congress failed to form a govt with Sachin Pilot, who had built the party from the ground up, after its 2013 defeat. Congress's inability to align new leadership with new and future voters' expectations soon produced internal disorder, organisational paralysis, and, before long, political collapse.

It was Pilot who had revitalised the cadre, attracted younger voters, and became the principal face of the anti-incumbency campaign. However, when victory came, Congress 'high command', which seemingly included Venugopal, chose veteran Ashok Gehlot. This compromise proved politically self-defeating. Factional warfare replaced administrative coherence, and BJP ultimately returned to office in 2023.

Madhya Pradesh was no different. Here too, the 2018 INC victory was built on expectations of renewal. So, the decision to appoint Kamal Nath as the state chief ahead of Jyotiraditya Scindia, and subsequently as CM, proved politically costly. The campaign itself had been driven by Scindia's charismatic mobilisation of younger voters. When his high command once again privileged seniority over generational transition, Scindia defected to BJP with 22 MLAs, precipitating BJP regime's return. This was an instructive case of how internal mismanagement can overturn an electoral mandate.

The pattern is tactile. INC often campaigns with one set of promises, but governs with another. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, it mobilised voters through the promise of generational change, only to retreat into the comfort of established hierarchies and 'high-command' proximity, once electoral victory was secured.

The pattern began earlier in undivided Andhra Pradesh, where the 'high command' chose K Rosaiah over YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, son of YSR, who died in a helicopter crash in 2009, despite widespread public sentiment favouring Jagan's succession. Influential figures like AK Antony supported Rosaiah. This miscalculation not only altered Congress's fortunes in a state that had once delivered 33 MPs to it, but also had far-reaching national consequences.

Now, Kerala also stands at the edge of a similar dilemma. If voters perceive one leader as the face of the campaign, and see another installed after victory, the resulting breach of representational legitimacy could be profound. It would disappoint party workers. And risk fracturing the fragile coalition of expectations upon which the UDF victory rests. In a state where political consciousness is exceptionally high, and voters remain acutely attentive to leadership and accountability, the electorate rarely forgives opaque decision-making.

Congress must recognise that leadership today cannot be determined solely by seniority, factional arithmetic, or central convenience. It must reflect the democratic energy that brought the party to govt in the first place. The debacles in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and MP should be instructive lessons. Don't risk repeating history, which Congress knows too well, can be unforgiving.

The writer teaches history at University of Delhi

'Op Sindoor showed India's new strategic DNA'

On the first anniversary of India's military response to Pahalgam, an Air Vice Marshal (retd) writes that armed forces did an exceptional job in conveying India's new resolve to Pakistan

Arjun Subramaniam

Even as the war in Ukraine shows no signs of ending and West Asia remains stuck in a No-War-No-Peace quagmire, it's important to benchmark Operation Sindoor against other conflicts in recent times. The stand-out features of Op Sindoor were the decisive application of sharp and controlled military force, along a manageable escalatory ladder to achieve calibrated strategic outcomes, with a clear exit strategy, that were in sync with Modi govt's political objectives.

Initiating the conflict to strike at the heart of Pakistan's anti-India terrorist networks, and inflict pain on Pakistan's Armed Forces should they militarily respond to India's initial counter-terrorist strike, were not maximalist objectives that required the widespread and expansive application of military force. It was a precise, proactive, and restrained coercive operation by a responsible power to punish repetitive acts of state-sponsored terrorism.

Though India had experimented in 2019 with the use of offensive air power in counter-terrorist operations at Balakot, its willingness this time to hit the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba headquarters at Bahawalpur and Muridke, respectively, revealed a fresh risk-taking propensity and willingness to climb the escalation ladder in pursuit of national interests. There was, however, a clarity of thought at the political level that an expanded conflict was not in India's interest, even though the military temptation of inflicting more damage on Pakistan's military assets existed.

Wisdom and restraint are two concurrent themes of responsible statecraft and military operations that India played well during Op Sindoor, particularly in terms of not causing any collateral damage during its strikes, and then of accepting Pakistan's offer for a ceasefire, even while on the military ascendancy. In retrospect, the pay-offs of an extended and expanded conflict now seem insignificant as compared to the potential economic and human costs – the hundreds of crores saved in terminating the conflict after four days, have added to India's demonstrated economic resilience during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, where US is believed to have so spent over $27bn with no end in sight to the conflict.

India's existing higher defence organisation functioned well during the conflict. There was a clear model of centralised and directive control during the planning and preparation phase of the operation, by the troika of PM, NSA, and Raksha Mantri as the first tier, backed by the second tier of CDS and three service chiefs. It's quite apparent that clear and cogent strategic outcomes were conveyed to the service chiefs, and the intelligence agencies, leaving them thereafter to create a doable operational mosaic.

Image: AI

At the operational level, the choice to use IAF as the sword-arm of India's emerging multi-domain military strategy, was a bold one that reflects the changing face of contemporary conflict. After bypassing and jamming Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, India struck deep into Pakistani heartland on May 7, destroying nine high-value terrorist launchpads across Pakistan and PoJK, dismantling key hubs of LeT, JeM, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

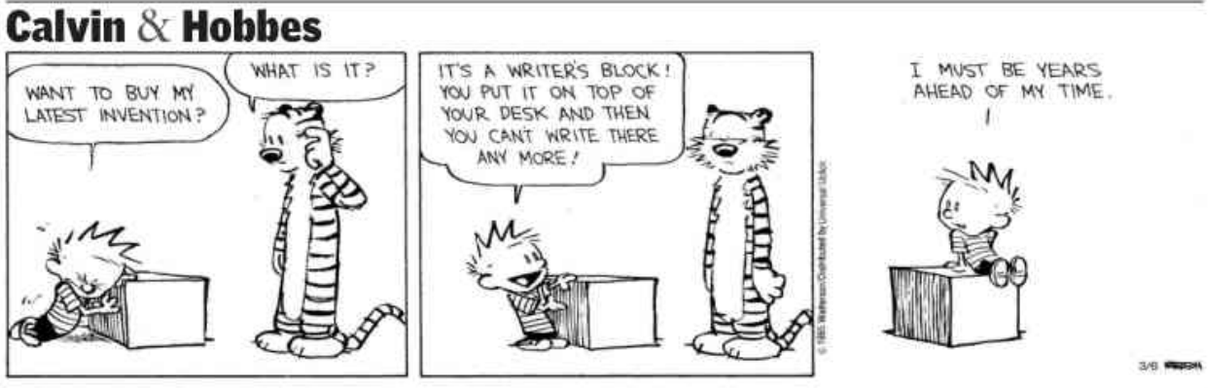
On May 10, within hours, India expanded the scope, targeting 11 key military installations, including Nur Khan Airbase, Rafiqui Airbase, Murid Airbase, Sukkur Airbase, Sialkot Airbase, Pasrur Airbase, Chunian Airbase, Sargodha Airbase, Skardu Airbase, Bholari Airbase, and Jacobabad Airbase; degrading critical air and operational capabilities. The ferocity of IAF's airstrikes has revealed that the damage inflicted on these airfields, aircraft and weapon systems based there, far surpasses the cumulative damage inflicted by IAF on PAF airfields in the 1971 War. Op Sindoor also validated the coming-of-age of India's integrated air defence system to counter the adversary's missile- and drone-heavy strategy.

IAF, however, will have to continue to remain on a fast-track learning curve to harness its platforms, weapons, and systems in any future limited conflict scenarios with more powerful adversaries.

Future battlefields will demand greater integration and synergy to cope with conflicts of longer duration. Many ongoing reforms and structural initiatives may have to go back to the drawing board, to come up with an organisational mosaic that is 'India specific' based on what has been learnt during Op Sindoor. While there are several strategic and operational lessons from ongoing global conflicts, India must guard against lifting war-fighting templates from elsewhere, and superimposing them on its own strategic and operational environment. As an example, proponents of a missile- and drone-centric focus in aerial operations must have a rethink. In a peer-to-peer contested aerial environment, such as the one that exists on India's western and northern fronts, what will succeed are multi-domain operations.

India's armed forces have proved themselves in a complex battlefield environment, albeit on a limited scale. India's strategic and national DNA comprises different strands, which have manifested themselves thus far in the 21st century as a combination of political orientations and strategic manifestations. Built around a foundation of responsibility and restraint, coupled with proactive deterrence, there has now been a palpable shift towards a whole-of-nation approach. Operation Sindoor was a manifestation of this gradually emerging DNA.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

You always own the option of having no opinion. There is never any need to get worked up or to trouble your soul about things you can't control. These things are not asking to be judged by you. Leave them alone.

Marcus Aurelius

Leaders Should Pause Before Reacting

Ganesh Kolambakar

In every organisation, authority is defined by designation and detailed in manuals. Roles are specified, powers are outlined, and procedures are codified. Such a structure is necessary, for it ensures order, accountability, and functionality. Yet leadership in real situations rarely unfolds according to laid-down rules. Human emotions are complex, contexts shift rapidly, and circumstances arise that no written code can fully anticipate or resolve.

When confined to written rules alone, authority becomes merely administrative. It may enforce compliance, but it cannot always deliver justice. True leadership demands something subtler. Indic philosophy offers a profound word for this faculty: Vivek, discernment. Vivek is the capacity to distinguish between the letter and the spirit, between surface correctness and deeper righteousness. It is the inner clarity that enables one to apply principles wisely in changing contexts.

Modern governance frequently speaks of discretionary power. Discretion grants a leader the freedom to decide within a framework. Yet discretion by itself is morally neutral. It can be exercised wisely or arbitrarily. What transforms discretion into ethical strength is discernment. Discretion is authority conferred by position. Discernment is clarity cultivated within. When discretionary power is not governed by Vivek, it risks becoming impulsive or self-serving. When anchored in discernment, it becomes an instrument of dharm.

Ramayan and Mahabharat reveal that righteousness is not mechanical rule following. In the Ramayan, Ram upholds order not merely through obedience to codes, but through fidelity to a higher moral harmony, even at personal cost. In Mahabharat, complex situations on the battlefield challenge conventional norms, reminding us that dharm is contextual and delicate. The message across both epics is clear: rigid literalism without wisdom can distort justice, while discernment preserves the larger moral order.

THE SPEAKING TREE

This insight is highly relevant to contemporary leadership. A manual may define what is permitted, but Vivek reveals what is appropriate.

Modern institutions function through policies and compliance frameworks. These are indispensable. However, leadership that hides behind procedure without engaging conscience becomes impersonal. People may comply with such authority, but they rarely trust it.

Authority governed by Vivek is different. It pauses before reacting. It inquires into the intent behind the policy. It weighs consequences not only in terms of legality, but also in terms of fairness and human impact. It understands that discretion is not a dilution of the order, but rather its intelligent application with integrity.

The Upanishadic distinction between *shreyas* and *preyas* deepens this perspective. Preyas is that which is immediately pleasing, while Shreyas is that which is ultimately beneficial. Vivek enables a leader to choose what is *shreyaskar* over what is merely s*preyaskar*. It prevents authority from becoming popularity-driven and aligns it instead with long-term welfare and ethical clarity.

Spirituality refines this process by shifting authority from ego to responsibility. Power exercised from ego seeks control. Authority exercised from awareness seeks balance. A spiritually anchored leader recognises that designation grants position, but character grants legitimacy.

THE KINDEST CUT

These women are taking a 'bald' decision... for a cause

A growing number of women are choosing to donate their hair to cancer patients. It is their way of sharing a stranger's fight without saying a word, reports Prashant Rupera

For over a decade, Namisha Gandhi has been asking people to do one simple — but difficult — thing: give away hair they have grown, cared for, and loved — to someone they will never meet. What began with 12 names on a list has grown to more than 1,800. Not all of them follow through, she admits. But every name is someone who paused and thought of someone else. That, she says, is where it begins.

Her initiative, Even a Cut Can Heal, run through the AddLife Foundation, processes donated hair into wigs for cancer patients, at no cost.

"We realised wigs are not always comfortable," Gandhi says. "Some find it heavy or restrictive." This led to Queen Caps — soft, breathable, easy-to-wear head coverings, also provided free, for those who need an alternative.

Around this effort, deeply personal stories have gathered. Neeti Rakesh Gandhi, 18, from Mumbai, donated her hair in memory of her uncle, who died of oesophageal cancer at 36. Her gesture helped raise awareness that even 12 inches of healthy hair can make a difference.

Then there is four-year-old Krishnaa Singhvi, who cut her hair for the first time, inspired by her grandmother's battle with cancer. Her innocence carries a powerful message: compassion knows no age. In Surendranagar, Gujarat, 17-year-old Palak Parghi shaved her head days after finishing her board exams. There was no occasion, no prompting. It was a decision she made after realising that the hair others admired on her mattered far more to someone else.

They represent a growing community — of students, professionals, homemakers — who have been growing their hair solely to donate it. An ecosystem has formed around them. Salons now offer complimentary haircuts; even premium establishments waive their fees, turning personal acts into collective support.

For cancer patients, hair loss carries a toll that goes beyond the physical. It is the discomfort of being seen differently. Trupal Patel, who runs Bald Beauty India, said: "In our society, a married woman does not shave off all her hair. But such deeply rooted social beliefs are now being challenged. I know of a woman from Anand district who went bald and donated her hair to cancer patients. Her husband did the same to support her and the cause she held close to her heart."

Today, Patel's movement operates on both fronts — supporting patients and normalising baldness. Every month, dozens donate their hair, with several women choosing to shave their heads entirely. "We hope there will be a day when people are able to step out confidently, without worrying about their appearance."

A Cousin's Promise

At 19, when most young women are still learning to embrace their identity, Dipika Bambhaniya chose — resolutely, and for love — to let go of a part of herself. The resident of Una, Gujarat, donated her hair in memory of her cousin Divya, who lost her life to blood cancer. "People asked me, '*Sharam nahi aayi*? (Did you not feel ashamed?)'," she says. "But they don't know that I did it for my Divya."

19-year-old Dipika Bambhaniya chose to let go of a part of herself. The Una resident donated her hair in memory of her cousin Divya, who lost her life to blood cancer. "People asked me, 'Sharam nahi aayi? But they don't know that I did it for my [cousin] Divya," she says

Their childhood was filled with shared routines and laughter. What Dipika didn't know then was that Divya was battling cancer. She learned of it only after Divya's death in Oct 2024. Conversations with relatives later revealed the pain Divya had endured, including the distress of losing her long, beautiful hair. "That just broke me," Dipika says.

Last Feb, she walked into a salon and shaved her head. For her, this was never about hair; it was about turning grief into purpose — and keeping Divya alive, in spirit, through others.

> **"I could feel my aunt's pain. I did not know until then that society looks at women who lose their hair with such disdain. Donating hair is satisfying and brings me a lot of joy. Helping others is a byproduct. The real change happens within us."**
> —*Prachi Vaidya*

The Long And Short Of It

For most people, growing long hair is a matter of care and pride. For 59-year-old Shyamliben Palkar from Vadodara, it is an act of purpose. An accounts officer with United India Insurance Company, she has grown and donated her hair three times in six years, most recently earlier this year.

Her latest donation was prompted by a phone call. A young schoolteacher undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer reached out to her for a wig. Her concern, Palkar learned, was not her illness but her students.

She told Palkar she did not want them to feel scared of her. "Her words just stayed with me," says Palkar.

For 59-year-old Shyamliben Palkar from Vadodara, donating hair is an act of purpose. The accounts officer with United India Insurance Company has grown and donated her hair three times in six years

That day, she had her hair cut and sent it off. By the next morning, it had reached its destination. Palkar belongs to a small but growing group of people who don't just donate once — they regrow their hair with the intention of giving it away again and again.

Empathy: All That Matters

Prachi Vaidya Duble grew up watching her aunt battle breast cancer. What stayed with her was not just the illness, but the quiet suffering that followed — the loss of hair, and her aunt's visible discomfort.

"I could feel her pain. I did not know until then that society looks at women who lose their hair with such disdain," she says. She remembers how even young girls who lose their hair are mocked in schools and made to feel different. "That would really hurt me," she says.

At the time, she didn't know what could be done. That changed years later when she came across the AddLife Foundation's work and realised that something as simple as a wig could help restore a person's confidence.

Since then, Prachi has donated her hair four times, growing it out patiently each time.

"Donating hair is immensely satisfying and brings me a lot of joy," she says. "Helping others is a byproduct. The real change happens within us."

An educator, researcher in Indian music, and performer for over 25 years, Prachi is associated with Ahmedabad University, CEPT University, and National Institute of Design (NID). She has travelled extensively across India, documenting Adivasi music traditions, and has performed in over 200 concerts at home and abroad. Yet, what matters most to her is empathy. "It's about solidarity and sisterhood," she says. "In the end, it's not about hair. It is about standing with someone you have never met."

A Daughter's Gift

For Jalpa Thakkar, life in Gandhidham in Gujarat's Kutch once felt complete — a loving husband, two children, and a close-knit family. A homemaker who cherished simple joys, she had everything going for her, until life changed.

In 2012, she noticed unusual symptoms but stayed silent, hoping home remedies would help. They didn't. Nearly a year later, she was diagnosed with advanced-stage breast cancer. What followed was relentless. Surgery in 2014 was only the beginning. Chemotherapy brought physical exhaustion, emotional strain, and the loss of hair — often the hardest to accept.

Through it all, her husband, Pankaj, stood by her. He took the decision to send their daughter, Yashvi, to Bengaluru for her studies, not wanting her to watch her mother suffer.

After her fourth chemotherapy session, Jalpa suffered a fracture that left her bedridden for nine months. At her lowest, hope seemed distant. But during Navratri, as she lay in a hospital hearing garba music, her husband made a promise — she would stand again and dance the next year. And she did. A year later, Jalpa perfomed garba for three hours, even without her hair.

17-year-old Palak Parghi shaved her head days after finishing her board exams. There was no occasion, no prompting. It was a decision she made after realising that the hair others admired on her mattered far more to someone else

Her journey inspired Yashvi. Witnessing her mother's struggles, she chose to donate three-fourths of her hair to help another patient. For Jalpa, that gesture is a reminder that love and empathy can truly heal.

Turning Battle Into Mission

For Keyuri Swaminarayan, surviving cancer was not the end of a journey. It was the beginning of a responsibility. Having endured the physical and emotional toll of the disease, Keyuriben chose to turn her experience into strength for others. Her decision to donate her hair was deeply personal. Having faced the distress of hair loss during chemotherapy, she understands that healing goes far beyond physical.

"It's the emotional battle that stays with you," she says. This was her second hair donation, but what made it special was sharing the moment with her daughter-in-law, Dr Kruti Swaminarayan. Together, they donated their hair to help create wigs for cancer patients.

Drawing from her own journey, Keyuri began handcrafting special caps for women undergoing chemotherapy. It was something she found comforting during her treatment. For many, her hair will become a wig. For many others, the caps she made will bring comfort. "Nobody should have to fight this battle alone. We are in this together," she says.

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TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Regional Railway Manager, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Karwar, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer invites Open tender is invited through Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) for following works.

Sr. No. 1, Name of work: Replacement of Mechanical Lifting Barrier (MLB) with Electrical Lifting Barrier (ELB) at 15 Nos Level Crossing Gates (LC gate no - 32, 37, 48, 50, 54, 63, 64, 66B, 67, 74, 74B, 81, 82, 83 & 85) on Karwar Region of Konkan Railway. **Tender Notice No. KR-KAWR-SG-ET-2026-05 dated 12.05.2026, Cost of work:** ₹ 1,00,06,084/- (Including GST), **Last date & time for submission of bids:** 03/06/2026 up to 15:30 Hrs.

Sr. No. 2, Name of work: Relocation of 6 Quad Joints with provision of Location Box and Earthing within station limits between Manki and Thokur in Karwar Region of Konkan Railway. **Tender Notice No. KR-KAWR-SG-ET-2026-06 dated 12.05.2026, Cost of work:** ₹ 74,51,682/- (Including GST), **Last date & time for submission of bids:** 03/06/2026 up to 15:30 Hrs.

For further details please visit website: www.ireps.gov.in

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TENDER NOTICE SALE OF IRON AND STEEL LYING IN TELANGANA STATE

Nafed Hyderabad invites bids for the sale of Iron and Steel stock lying at Bollaram, Hyderabad in the State of Telangana through public auction on **21.05.2026.** Interested buyers may visit NAFED's website www.nafed-india.com/tenders for the stock locations and sale procedure.

State Head

Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmela26@gmail.com

The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites below mentioned bids :-
1. Selection of Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Ghat along with hosting Aarti at Sangam and Quila Ghat.

The Tender Documents shall be made available on the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in from Sr. No. 1-7th May 2026 onwards. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal and details regarding the Tender shall be made available on Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in.

Meladhikari,
Prayagraj Mela Authority,
Prayagraj.

KARNATAKA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
No. 30, Prasannakumar Block, Y. Ramachandra Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009 Ph.: 080-22341395, Website: www.kshec.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSHEC/2/2026-27/536(A) Date:04.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka State Higher Education Council invites tenders in two cover system for Providing Security Services to KSHEC, Bengaluru **(KSHEC/2026-27/SE0007)** through e-Procurement Portal.

Further details can be obtained from e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Director
DIPR/CP/JA/527/2026-27 Karnataka State Higher Education Council

Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT)
Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
(Formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology, NSIT)
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)

PhD ADMISSIONS ODD SEMESTER 2026-27 (SUMMER)

Degree Programmes	Admission Criteria	Links for Further Details
Ph.D. (ECE/ICE/EE/ME/CSE/IT/CIVIL/ GeoInformatics/Design/etc.)	Written Test conducted by NSUT	http://www.nsut.ac.in https://www.imsnsit.org/imsnsit/eleam_phdregistration.php
Ph.D. (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, and Biological Sciences & Engineering & Management)	NET Score/ Written Test conducted by NSUT	http://www.nsut.ac.in https://www.imsnsit.org/imsnsit/eleam_phdregistration.php

Date of Online Application Submission 13.05.2026 to 10.06.2026 (05:00 PM)

Applications of candidates, whose results of qualifying examination is likely to be declared on or before last date given in information brochure, will also be accepted.
Categories of admissions are given as under
- Teaching Cum Research Fellowship (TRF)
- Research Scholars University Research Fellow (URF).
- Research Scholars with fellowship from other sponsoring agencies (UGC/DST/CSIR/DBT/ICMR etc.)
- Research Scholars without any fellowship (Self-financing mode).

Application Processing Fee (non-Refundable): Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only). For more details, refer to the PhD Admission Brochure 2026-27 (Summer) on the University website i.e. http://www.nsut.ac.in, https://www.imsnsit.org/imsnsit/eleam_phdregistration.php

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0042/26-27

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014

Recruitment Notice

Offline applications are invited by the Director, SGPGIMS, Lucknow, from eligible Officers to fill the following Group A post on Deputation at SGPGIMS, Lucknow.

Name of post & Pay scale	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment & other eligibility Criteria	Remarks
Joint Director (Administration) 7th CPC Level-13 (123100-215900)	01	**Essential Qualification** Graduate (with 55% marks or above) with MBA or PG Diploma in personnel management of 02 years duration or equivalent. **Experience** 1.Officers under the Central /State /PCS /U.Ts. Government / PSUs / Universities /Statutory & Autonomous Bodies or Research and Development Organizations. 2. Holding analogous posts (Level- 13 post) on regular basis OR officers working at Level-12 for at least 5 years on regular basis. 3. NOC from the Cadre controlling authority of the Institution should be submitted.	The period of deputation ordinarily shall not exceed 03 years. Upper Age Limit- 55 Years for all categories

1. The detailed advertisement & Application format can be seen at Institute's website **www.sgpgims.org.in.**

ADVT.No.:I/06/Rectt/2026-27 Director

ADMISSION NOTICE
Common Entrance Test-2026
FOR ADMISSION AT

INSTITUTE	COURSES
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) (PDUNIPPD) 4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi-110002 Website: https://pdunippd.nic.in, E-mail: cetpdunippd2026@gmail.com	• BPT • BOT • BPO
Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (DIVYANGJAN), Cuttack (SVNIRTAR) Olatapur, PO- Bairoi, Cuttack, Odisha - 754010 Website: https://svnirtar.nic.in, E-mail: nirtar@nic.in	• BPT • BOT • BPO • BASLP
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Kolkata (NILD) B T Road, Bonhooghly, Kolkata – 700090 website : https://nild.nic.in, E-mail : mail@nioh.in	• BPT • BOT • BPO
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Chennai (NIEPMD) East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Kovalam Post Chennai-603112, Website: www.niepmd.nic.in, E-mail: niepmd@gov.in	• BPT • BOT • BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai (AYJNISHD(D) K.C. Marg, Bandra (W) Reclamation Mumbai - 400 050 Website: https://ayjnishd.nic.in, E-mail: ayjnihh-mum@nic.in	• BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Regional Center, Kolkata NIEPID Campus, Manovikas Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderadad Telanfana-500009. Email : adsrc-nihh@ayjnihh.nic.in	• BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Regional Center, Secundrabad NIEPID Campus, Manovikas Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderadad NILD Campus, B.T. Road, Bonhooghly, Kolkata - 700090 Website: aderc-nihh@nic.in	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, (DIVYANGJAN), Guwahati (CRCSRE) Guwahati Medical College Hospital Campus Post Office Indrapur, GMC Hospital Rd, Bhangagarh, Guwahati, Assam-781032 Website: https://crcguwahati.nic.in, E-mail: crcguwahati@gmail.com,	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre, Patna Sheikhpura, (Old Dharamshala), Near IGIMS Nursing College, Patna-800014 Website: https://crcpatna.nic.in, E-mail-crcpatna@rediffmail.com	• BPO

Eligibility: 10+2 Science with English as Compulsory Subject

Starting date of online Application: 11.05.2026 (Monday)
Closing date of online receipt of Application: 05.06.2026 (Friday)
Date of Entrance Test: 28.06.2026 (Sunday)

To Apply Online go to - https://admission.svnirtar.nic.in

For Further Details Visit - https://pdunippd.nic.in
All concerned may please note. CBC 38101/11/0002/2627 Director, PDUNIPPD, New Delhi

LATE JAGJIVAN RAM GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEAR MOSTAMANU TEMPLE, PITHORAGARH (UTTARAKHAND)
Email- gmcpithoragarh@gmail.com

पत्रांक : जी०एम०सी०पी० / ए–5 / विज्ञापन / 2026–2027 / 761 दिनांक : 06 / 05 / 2026

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

"Walk-in-Interview" will be held on every **Thursday** of every week of **May** and **June** 2026 from 10:30 am to 05.00 pm at "Office of the Principal", **Base hospital Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand** for the post of **SR (Senior Resident)** and **JR (Junior Resident).** Registration will be done on the day of interview till 1:00 PM only. The minimum educational requirement for the post will be as per NMC Norms. **LATE JAGJIVAN RAM GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand** reserves the right to increase or decrease the post(s) as per needs. No T.A./D.A. will be admissible for attending the Interview. The post will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of **03 (three) years** for **SR (Senior Resident)** and **01 (one year)** for **JR (Junior Resident).**

The details and available no. of posts will be freshly uploaded on every **Tuesday** of May and June on our website:- **www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in & www.hnbumu.ac.in**

Principal
LJRGMC, Pithoragarh

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)

Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Website: www.nia.nic.in

VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2026

Online Applications are invited for the following Posts for **NIA, Panchkula:** Professor (14 Posts), Associate Professor (14 Posts), Assistant Professor (6 Posts), all in different Subjects, Medical Officer (1 Post), Deputy Director (Admn. & Fin.) (1 Post), Accountant (1 Post), Nursing Officer (1 Post) & Librarian (1 Post);
And for the following Posts for **NIA, Jaipur:** Assistant Professor (5 Posts), Panchakarma Vaidya (1 Post), Radiologist (1 Post), Junior Translation Officer (1 Post), Accountant (1 Post) and Pharmacist (1 Post).
All Details like Subjects, Reservations etc. are available in the Website of the Institute: **www.nia.nic.in.**
Applications are to be filled Online only in the Website of the Institute. The Date of Starting of Online Filling of Applications is 11-5-2026. The Closing Date for Online Filling of Application is 20-6-2026. The Institute reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of vacancies, to withdraw the vacancy of any or all Posts and to reject any or all applications without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

JP SHARMA
Date: 5-5-2026 **JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)**

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ARE A GREAT ANNOYANCE TO THOSE OF US WHO DO.
— ISAAC ASIMOV

COURT DENIES BRAD PITT REQUEST TO ACCESS EMAILS LINKED TO SALE OF ANGELINA JOLIE'S STAKE IN WINERY

ROLLING STONES ANNOUNCE NEW ALBUM, 'FOREIGN TONGUES', TO BE RELEASED JULY 10

US memo to end Iran war echoes Obama deal Trump had trashed

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In a social media post, US President Donald Trump once again attributed to Pakistan and other intermediaries his dialling back on force on Iran. "Based on the request of Pakistan and other Countries, the tremendous Military Success that we have had during the Campaign against the Country of Iran and, additionally, the fact that Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement with Representatives of Iran, we have mutually agreed that, while the Blockade will remain in full force and effect, Project Freedom (The Movement of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz) will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized and signed," he said.

A few hours later, Trump threatened to resume hostilities if Iran did not acquiesce. "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran. If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than before," he wrote.

On Wednesday, a US navy warplane fired on and disabled the rudder of an Iran-flagged oil tanker that tried to break the blockade of Iranian ports, the military said.

China wants Iran to reopen strait ASAP

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi on Wednesday told his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, to restore "normal and secure navigation" through Strait of Hormuz "as soon as possible". Wang added that China appreciated Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons. PTI

According to US leaks, key provisions about the potential agreement — which in many ways echo the Obama deal that Trump had rejected and trashed — include:

- **Nuclear freeze:** Iran would accept a moratorium on uranium enrichment, with negotiators narrowing differences between Tehran's proposal of five years and Washington's demand for 20 years to roughly 12-15 years.
- **Enriched uranium:** In a shift, Tehran has signalled openness to removing or neutralising its stockpile of highly enriched uranium.
- **Sanctions relief:** The US would begin lifting key economic sanctions and release frozen Iranian assets.
- **Hormuz de-escalation:** Both sides would ease restrictions in and around the Strait of Hormuz, restoring commercial shipping lanes.
- **Ceasefire mechanism:** The memo would formalise an end to active hostilities and trigger a 30-day negotiating window to hammer out a detailed agreement.

AFP

A statue of Persian mythical figure Arash the Archer near a billboard depicting the Strait of Hormuz in Tehran

Iran hit more US def assets than reported, satellite images show

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

Since Feb 28, Iranian airstrikes, mostly through drones, have damaged or destroyed at least 228 defence structures or pieces of equipment at US military sites, damaging hangars, barracks, fuel depots, aircraft and key radar, communications and air defence equipment. There seems to be far more destruction of US military assets than earlier reported, according to a Washington Post analysis of satellite imagery. However, US Central Command has till now not given an assessment of the total military assets damaged in the region.

On Tuesday, a US Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker — a critical air asset valued between $40-$52 million — vanished from the radar over the Strait of Hormuz. Flight tracking data confirmed the aircraft squawked a 7700 distress signal before its transponder went dark over Qatar. The KC-135, serves as a flying gas station — a lifeline that keeps bombers, fighters, and surveillance planes flying for hours beyond their natural range. Centcom is also silent on the "missing plane". Though Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported on the disappearance, citing data from Flightradar24, there is no statement from Tehran indicating its involvement.

US lost 39 aircraft, including four F15E Strike Eagle jets, throughout the first week of April, with another 10 damaged to various degrees, according to internal tracking by TWZ, a premier defence technology news group.

The WaPo report said the Iranians struck a satellite comm site at al-Udeid airbase in Qatar, Patriot defence equipment at Riffa and Isa airbases in Bahrain and Ali al-Salem airbase in Kuwait.

Russia snubs Ukraine truce, fires dozens of drones

Kyiv: Russia fired dozens of drones at Ukraine in nighttime attacks, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday, disregarding a unilateral ceasefire announced by Kyiv that began at midnight. The Russian defence ministry claimed that Ukraine hadn't abided by its own ceasefire, saying that air defences shot down 53 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions, the Crimean Peninsula and the Black Sea between Tuesday evening and dawn Wednesday.

Five people were killed by a Ukrainian drone strike on the city of Dzhankoi in Crimea, according to Russia-installed governor Sergei Aksyonov. He reported the casualties just after midnight, but posted about the attack itself more than 90 minutes earlier.

There had been no official sign from Moscow that it would heed Kyiv's ceasefire, and there was little hope for a pause in hostilities as the war stretches into its fifth year following Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbour. US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the war over the past year have come to nothing.

On Wednesday, two Russian drones hit a kindergarten in Sumy city in northeastern Ukraine, killing a security guard and wounding two others, officials said. No children were there at the time. AP

Fuel was cut before China jet crashed, killing 132: US report

Shanghai: US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released data this week indicating fuel supply to both engines of a China Eastern Airlines flight, a Boeing 737, was switched off before the jet plunged into a hillside in China in March 2022, killing all 132 on board.

The data, which was released by NTSB in response to a freedom of information request and originated from the plane's flight data recorder, showed the fuel switches for both engines moved simultaneously before the jet descended.

"It was found that while cruising at 29,000 feet, the fuel switches on both engines moved from the run position to the cutoff position. Engine speeds decreased after the fuel switch movement," the NTSB report said.

On June 12, 2025, Air India Flight 171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner flying to London, crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing 241 on board. A preliminary report indicated that both fuel switches had been moved to cutoff.

The crash of the Boeing 737-800, operated as China Eastern flight MU5735, was China's deadliest air disaster in decades.

> **It was found that while cruising at 29,000 feet, fuel switches on both engines moved from the run position to the cutoff position. Engine speeds decreased after the fuel switch movement**
> US NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Chinese regulators have not released a full report detailing the findings of their investigation into the crash and have given no update for more than two years.

Civil Aviation Administration of China and China Eastern Airlines did not respond to request for comment on the report and a spokesperson for China's ministry of foreign affairs declined to answer a question about the US findings at a regular press briefing on Wednesday.

The flight data recorder is one of the two black boxes recovered from the wreckage. It was sent to the NTSB laboratory for analysis because Boeing is an American aircraft manufacturer. REUTERS

Warm rhetoric in WH, but drawdown on ground: US closes Peshawar consulate as it culls diplomatic infra

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The US state department on Monday announced closure of its consulate in Peshawar, a move that underscores a striking contradiction in the Trump administration's Pakistan policy: warm rhetoric and gushing praise at the top, but a steady drawdown of diplomatic infrastructure on the ground.

The decision, framed by officials as a matter of "safety" and "efficient resource management", will transfer responsibility for engagement in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to the US embassy in Islamabad, roughly 114 miles away. The closure comes even as Trump has publicly praised Pakistan's leadership, lavishing unusual accolades on the country's "field marshall" (sic) whom Trump has taken a fancy to, for his help as an intermediary with Tehran.

At the top of the diplomatic hierarchy, Marco Rubio is juggling an unusually broad portfolio. In addition to serving as secretary of state, he has been tasked with multiple overlapping roles in national security and policy coordination, raising questions about the administration's bandwidth and strategic coherence

The state department has offered a familiar quartet of justifications: cost savings, reorganisation, shifting logistical needs, and security concerns in closing the Peshawar consulate. Officials also point to the diminished strategic role of the post since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, when Peshawar served as a key logistical hub. Security concerns have also been cited, with recent unrest in the region raising risks for personnel.

The Peshawar shutdown is the first permanent closure of an overseas US diplomatic mission in Trump's second term. Across West Asia and South Asia, several US consulates have temporarily suspended operations amid regional tensions, particularly following military escalations involving Iran and a "worldwide caution" advisory issued earlier this year. Meanwhile, visa services at many posts have been curtailed under expanded restrictions and "extreme vetting" policies.

Behind these operational shifts lies a more profound transformation: a systematic downsizing of America's diplomatic corps. In the latest phase of a sweeping "reduction in force", more than 200 career diplomats, including approximately 246 many Foreign Service Officers, were laid off on Monday.

The cuts have disproportionately targeted bureaus dealing with refugees, human rights, and democracy promotion. The administration has openly justified this by arguing that such offices were "prone to ideological capture", signalling a deliberate pivot away from traditional pillars of US diplomacy.

Compounding the upheaval is the dismantling of USAID, long a cornerstone of American soft power. With its functions curtailed or absorbed, many state department roles have been deemed redundant. Employees reportedly arrived at work in recent days under instructions to bring passports and govt devices, prepared to surrender them on short notice — a process that has fuelled what one insider called "an atmosphere of quiet panic".

The downsizing has coincided with a striking shift in how the administration conducts high-stakes diplomacy. Instead of relying primarily on career diplomats and subject-matter experts, key negotiations — particularly those involving Iran's nuclear programme — have increasingly been handled by political loyalists and informal envoys, including Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

If he wins, Ramaswamy will be 3rd US guv of Indian origin

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Vivek Ramaswamy's White House run may have faltered, but he emerged from the campaign as one of Donald Trump's most articulate defenders, frequently echoing the president's populist themes while cultivating a younger, media-savvy base.

That alignment paid dividends. Trump's early endorsement helped clear the Republican field and underscored the president's continued dominance over party primaries. Ramaswamy's lone serious challenger, political novice Casey Putsch, attempted to position himself as a cultural purist, at times resorting to rhetoric targeting Ramaswamy's Indian heritage and Hindu faith — attacks that the candidate forcefully rebuked.

"If you believe in normalising hatred towards any ethnic group… you have no place in the future of the conservative movement," Ramaswamy said during the campaign, striking a note that blended Trump-era nationalism with a broader appeal against overt bigotry. His ability to navigate that tension — embracing hardline positions while rejecting explicit racial animus — may prove central to his political durability. If Ramaswamy goes on to win the gubernatorial race in Nov, he will become the third governor of Indian origin in the US after Bobby Jindal in Louisiana and Nikki Haley in South Carolina, both Republicans.

AP

Ramaswamy with his sons, Karthik and Arjun, after winning the party's nomination Tuesday

If Ramaswamy's victory highlighted the GOP consolidation under Trump-aligned figures, the Democratic side in Ohio offered a study in resilience. Veteran senator Sherrod Brown secured his party's nomination, reaffirming his status as one of the few Democrats able to win statewide in an increasingly Republican-leaning state.

Brown, who backpacked across India during the Emergency and is known for his economic populism and pro-labour message, has long cultivated a blue-collar appeal that cuts across partisan lines. His win signals that Democrats are likely to double down on bread-and-butter economic issues in a bid to counter Republican cultural messaging.

6 in 10 say US not good place for immigrants

Washington: Most US adults say the country is no longer a great place for immigrants, according to an AP-NORC poll, as about a third report knowing someone impacted by the administration's aggressive immigration enforcement.

A survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research of more than 2,500 US adults finds about 6 in 10 say the country used to be a great place for immigrants but is not any more. About one-third of US adults — and more than half of Hispanic adults — say they, or someone they know, have started carrying proof of their immigration status or US citizenship, been detained or deported, changed travel plans, or significantly changed routines, such as avoiding work, school or leaving the house.

Roughly 3 in 10 US adults say it is a great place for immigrants, according to the poll, while about 1 in 10 say it never was. About two-thirds say automatic citizenship should be granted to children born in the country, a view that most Democrats and independents back. Republicans are more doubtful: just 44% support birthright citizenship. AP

As more deepfakes surface, Italy's Meloni calls them a political attack

Rome: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday denounced the circulation of a deepfake photo of her — posing in bed, wearing lingerie — and complained that such AI-created images were being used to attack her.

Meloni shared the photo in question on Facebook. She included with it an apparent post from someone named Roberto who apparently had himself shared it with the commentary that Meloni should be "ashamed". Meloni warned against sharing such images on social media without verifying them.

In 2024, Meloni sued two men, who posted fake videos of her on a US porn site, for 100,000 euros

Doctored sexualised images of the PM have surfaced before, particularly last year on a pornographic website. In response, govt passed a law that criminalised deepfakes that caused "unjust harm".

"Deepfakes are a dangerous tool because they can deceive, manipulate and target anyone. I can defend myself. Many others cannot," Meloni warned in her post.

It wasn't clear if she would report the incident to law enforcement. The manipulation made her "look a lot better", she acknowledged, adding, "The fact remains that, in order to attack and fabricate lies, people will now use absolutely anything." AGENCIES

Orban-era media mogul under probe, assets frozen

Budapest: Hungarian police have said they are investigating the companies of one of the country's top media players who won lucrative contracts under Viktor Orban's outgoing govt on suspicion of misappropriation of funds and money laundering.

The police statement late on Tuesday came after Gyula Balasy, owner of several top media companies that have designed govt campaigns for Orban for over a decade, said he offered to hand over his firms and some of his investments to the state as the new govt of Peter Magyar takes over. He said the accounts of several of his companies had been frozen last Monday.

"Gyula Balasy cooperates with the police and all relevant authorities and is available any time," Balasy's Lounge Group said in a reply to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Magyar, whose centre-right Tisza party ousted Orban after 16 years in an election last month, will take his oath on May 9 as PM. He has pledged to clamp down on corruption and "re-acquire stolen state assets". REUTERS

Outspoken TV pioneer, CNN founder Ted Turner dies

Ted Turner, the brash and outspoken TV pioneer who raced yachts, owned huge chunks of the American West and transformed the news business by launching CNN in 1980, has died at age 87.

Turner owned professional sports teams in Atlanta, defended the America's Cup in yachting in 1977 and donated a stunning $1 billion to UN charities. He married three women — most famously actor Jane Fonda — and earned the nicknames 'Captain Outrageous' and 'The Mouth of the South'.

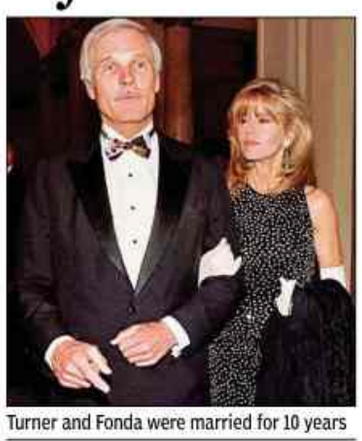
He once bragged: "If only I had a little humility, I'd be perfect."

Born Nov 19, 1938, in Cincinnati, his garrulous personality sometimes overshadowed a risk-taking business acumen. By the time he sold his Turner Broadcasting System to Time Warner Inc in 1996, Turner had turned his late father's billboard company into a global conglomerate that included seven cable networks, three sports teams and a pair of hit movie studios.

Turner's signature achievement was creating CNN, the first 24-hour, all-news TV network in 1980. "I was going to have to hit hard and move incredibly fast and that's what we did — move so fast that the networks wouldn't have the time to respond, because they should have done this, not me," Turner said in a 2016 interview. "But they didn't have the imagination."

CNN's breakthrough moment came during the Gulf War with Iraq in 1991. Most journalists had fled Baghdad, warned of an imminent American attack. CNN stayed, capturing arresting images of a war's outbreak.

Turner was promised a continued role in CNN after his company's sale to Time Warner for $7.3 billion in stock, but was gradually pushed out. "I made a mistake," he later said.



Turner and Fonda were married for 10 years

Turner had an unexpected friendship with Cuban leader Fidel Castro, bonding over hunting and arguments about politics over rum and cigars. A once bitter rival who compared Fox's Rupert Murdoch to Adolf Hitler, they later reconciled over mutual concern for the environment.

Turner's antics occasionally overshadowed his business activities. He called Christians "losers" and "Jesus freaks", later apologising for both remarks. He once suggested that unemployed Black people be used to haul mobile missiles with ropes "like the Egyptians building the pyramids". After civil rights leaders demanded an apology, he said he was just joking.

Turner revealed his ambitions as a younger man: "…I wanted to become the world's greatest sailor, businessman and lover all at the same time." AP

DAILY PLANET

US agency sues NYT for 'white discrimination'

A federal civil rights agency filed a discrimination lawsuit on Tuesday against the New York Times, claiming the organisation passed over a white male employee for a promotion in favour of a less qualified woman to meet its diversity goals. NYT called the lawsuit politically motivated. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed the lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of an NYT editor who didn't get the role of deputy real estate editor in 2025. EEOC claimed NYT's publicly stated goals of increasing the number of women and people of colour in its leadership ranks influenced the decision to exclude the applicant. NYT spokesperson Danielle Rhoades Ha said, "The allegation centres on a single personnel decision for one of over 100 deputy positions… yet EEOC's filing makes sweeping claims that ignore the facts to fit a predetermined narrative."

Former FedEx driver gets death for killing 7-yr-old

A former FedEx driver was sentenced to death on Tuesday after he pleaded guilty to killing a 7-year-old girl he took from her Texas home while delivering a Christmas gift in 2022. Jurors decided on Tanner Horner's punishment after hearing about a month of testimony and evidence that included audio of Athena Strand's last moments from inside his delivery van. Athena's body was found two days after she was reported missing.

Bondi Beach shooter faces 19 extra charges

A man accused of murdering 15 people in an antisemitic mass shooting at Australia's Bondi Beach is facing a raft of fresh charges, court records released on Wednesday showed. Naveed Akram is accused of opening fire as families thronged Bondi Beach for a Hanukkah celebration in Dec. The 24-year-old has already been charged with dozens of serious crimes, including 15 murders and committing an act of terrorism. Court records showed he is now facing 19 additional charges

Bus-tanker crash kills 16, injures 4 in Indonesia

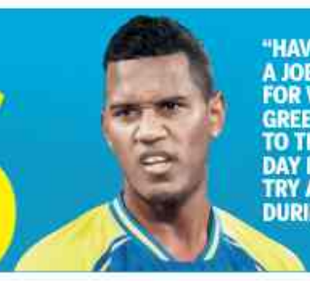
A road accident involving a passenger bus and a fuel tanker killed 16 people and injured four on Indonesia's Sumatra island on Wednesday, a disaster agency official said. "Fourteen passengers of the bus and two people from the oil tanker died" in the crash in North Musi Rawas Regency, official Hasbi Hasidqi said. Four people were hospitalised, three of them with serious burns. Initial information suggested one of the bus tyres had burst.

Fire at a shopping centre in Iran leaves 8 dead

A fire in a shopping centre near Iran's capital killed eight people and injured 40, Tehran's emergency service department said Wednesday. The fire started on Tuesday in Arghavan shopping centre in Andisheh town. Iran's state television, IRIB, said authorities were investigating the cause of the blaze.

S Korean judge who hiked ex-first lady's jail time dead

A South Korean judge who increased former first lady Kim Keon Hee's prison sentence from 20 months to 4 years last month was found dead on Wednesday, police said. Shin Jong-o was "found unconscious… at the Seoul high court building" and pronounced dead in hospital, an investigator said, adding: "There is no sign of foul play." Media reported Shin had left a suicide note, but the investigator denied this.



"HAVING TWO FIELDERS OUT, IT'S NOT A JOB THAT YOU CAN GO SEARCHING FOR WICKETS OR YOU CAN BE TOO GREEDY. IT'S JUST ABOUT STICKING TO THE PLAN. AT THE END OF THE DAY IF YOU DON'T GET WICKETS, YOU TRY AND BOWL ECONOMICALLY DURING THE POWERPLAY."
—Akeal Hosein | CSK spinner

SRH PUMMEL PUNJAB KINGS

Explosive Top-Order, Incisive Cummins Too Much For Shreyas' Men

JAC.Gladson@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings — two teams with the most explosive batting line-ups in this edition of the IPL — barely lived up to expectations on a wicket that had seen India pile up 297 against Bangladesh in Oct 2024, and last season, SRH had threatened to breach 300.

It turned out to be a good toss to lose for Pat Cummins here on Wednesday as Marco Jansen was subjected to heavy shelling by Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan (55; 32b, 2x4, 5x6) and Heinrich Klaasen (69; 43b, 3x4, 4x6). The Sunrisers cruised to 235/4 and effectively killed the contest after reducing Punjab to 23/3 in four overs.

Skipper Cummins was brilliant with the ball and in the field, and the 33-run win took SRH to the top of the table. Impact player Priyansh Arya succumbed yet again to a short delivery and Nitish Reddy, back in the side after missing the previous match against Kolkata Knight Riders, struck in the second over to get rid of Prabhsimran Singh. The reliable Eshan Malinga dismissed skipper Shreyas Iyer — both skiers calmly pouched by Cummins at mid-off — and Punjab were down for the count.

Marcus Stoinis lived and perished by the left-arm wrist spin of Shivang Kumar. And just as Cooper Connolly (107*; 59b, 7x4, 3x6) threatened to cut loose during his 40-run stand with Stoinis and the 47-run partnership with Suryansh Shedge, gleaning 35 runs off Harsh Dubey and Shivang's two overs, a superb Cummins scalped Shedge and tightened the screws.

Despite Connolly's valiant effort, Punjab needed 145 in the last 10 overs — 49 from the last over — and the reprieve he got from Shivang when on 63 did not help Punjab as much as their largesse in the field helped the Sunrisers earlier.

Kishan got two reprieves — on nine by Connolly off Lockie Ferguson and again on 18 by Ferguson off Yuzvendra Chahal — and Klaasen was also let off on nine by Shashank Singh at fine leg off Chahal.

Ferguson's extra pace had the desired effect in Abhishek miscuing his drive on 35 (13b, 2x4, 4x6), but with Arshdeep, Jansen and Vijaykumar Vyshak's deliveries sitting up and begging to be hit, the Punjab attack was cannon fodder for the Sunrisers' batsmen as they built on a good powerplay of 79/1 to cruise to 118/2 at the halfway stage.

The cutters with the old ball helped Punjab to an extent in stemming the run flow till Kishan hit Vyshak for 21 runs in the 14th over.

PTI

KNOCK IN VAIN: Cooper Connolly's 107 off 59 balls could not earn PBKS full points

SCOREBOARD

SRH: A Sharma c Iyer b Ferguson 35, T Head c Jansen b Chahal 38, I Kishan c Shedge b Arshdeep 55, H Klaasen c Jansen b Vyshak 69, NK Reddy not out 29; **Extras: (b2, lb2, w5) 9; Total: (4 wkts) 235; FoW:** 1-54, 2-84, 3-172, 4-235; **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-43-1, Jansen 4-0-61-0, Ferguson 4-0-41-1, Chahal 4-0-32-1, Vyshak 4-0-54-1.

PBKS: P Arya c Malinga b Cummins 1, P Singh c Cummins b Reddy 3, C Connolly not out 107, S Iyer c Cummins b Malinga 5, M Stoinis c Kishan b Shivang 28, S Shedge c Abhishek b Cummins 25, S Singh c Reddy b Hussain 4, M Jansen c Harsh b Shivang 19, V Vyshak not out 1; **Extras: (w7, nb 2) 9; Total: (7 wkts) 202; FoW:** 1-4, 2-4, 3-23, 4-63, 5-110, 6-119, 7-187; **Bowling:** Cummins 4-0-34-2, Reddy 2-0-11-1, Malinga 4-0-36-1, Hussain 4-0-40-1, Shivang 4-0-45-2, Harsh 2-0-36-0.

Result: SRH won by 33 runs.

22y 257d Cooper Connolly has become the youngest overseas centurion in the IPL, bettering the feat of Quinton de Kock, who recorded the hundred at the age of 23 years 122 days — 108 for DC vs RCB in Bengaluru on April 17, 2016.

9 Sunrisers Hyderabad have won nine successive matches vs Punjab Kings in Hyderabad in the IPL between May 11, 2015 and May 6, 2026.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
SRH	11	7	4	0	0.737	14
PBKS	10	6	3	1	0.571	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	10	6	4	0	-0.147	12
CSK	10	5	5	0	0.151	10
DC	10	4	6	0	-0.949	8
KKR	9	3	5	1	-0.539	7
MI	10	3	7	0	-0.649	6
LSG	9	2	7	0	-1.076	4

PANDYA LIKELY FOR RCB MATCH

Mumbai: Skipper Hardik Pandya on Wednesday was not a part of the first batch of MI players and support staff who travelled to Raipur but is expected to be fit for the next game against RCB on Sunday.

MI have a five-day gap between their last game on May 4 against LSG and their next game against RCB on May 10. Pandya missed the game against LSG due to a back spasm. However, his niggle is said to be a minor one and a team source said he was advised rest for the game against LSG. PTI

Stuttering LSG run into RCB

Fazal Khan | TNN

Lucknow: With their playoff hopes virtually over, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) are now playing to restore pride in this IPL. LSG are currently on a six-match losing streak and with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) visiting, finding themselves at the bottom of the table — with a net run rate of -1.076 — in the middle of the season, isn't the best situation to be in.

The team management, including Tom Moody, head coach Justin Langer and strategic advisor Kane Williamson, will be desperate to help the side finish the season on a respectable note.

RCB, on the other hand, are placed second on the table with a net run rate of 1.420. The defending champions have looked balanced and confident. Virat Kohli, captain Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal have been in good form with the bat, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood have led the pace attack effectively.

With a black-soil pitch rolled out for Thursday's clash, expect a slower, lower-bounce surface where spinners and change-of-pace bowlers can have a say in the game. LSG's game against DC was played on a similar wicket, and was a low scoring one. It suggests that strokeplay would require patience, and batters who rotate strike well and target short phases rather than constant boundary-hitting, would be better suited.

LSG assistant coach Lance Klusener described the surface as "a fantastic wicket" and said the pitch has improved significantly over the past two years. "I know a few years back, it was turning quite a bit; I think in the last two years, it's been an outstanding surface," Klusener said.

Klusener said that the main challenge was not the pitch, but the dimensions of the ground. "The size of the ground is what makes it different. If you look at the stats, in terms of six hitting, it's the least number of sixes hit here," he pointed out.

Whether the spin-friendly nature of the surface could prompt RCB add another spinner, spin-bowling coach Malolan Rangarajan said that the visitors were unlikely to make major changes. "We have Krunal Pandya, who has been doing very well for us. Suyash Sharma is another option. And then we have four pacers. The way we're structured, we don't look at conditions to make too many changes. We're happy with the way our squad is right now," he said.

He also added that RCB was not looking too far ahead in the points table. "There will come a time to start thinking about top two or something like that, but at the moment we are just focused on the LSG game," Rangarajan said.

WEATHER 27°C

2 RCB have won both their IPL fixtures vs LSG played in Lucknow — by 18 runs on May 1, 2023 & by six wickets on May 27, 2025.

112 Rajat Patidar's unbeaten knock off 54 balls in Kolkata, on May 25, 2022 is the only hundred by a RCB batter vs LSG.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'WANT KULDEEP TO BE BETTER'

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals head coach Hemang Badani wants premier spinner Kuldeep Yadav to rediscover his best form with the franchise's playoff hopes hanging by a thread following the loss to Chennai Super Kings.

Defending a below par 155, DC were able to apply some pressure in the Powerplay but Samson smashed Kuldeep for three sixes in his three overs that went for 34 runs. Kuldeep was brought in to get the breakthrough, instead he ended up releasing the pressure on the opposition.

"We would ideally want Kuldeep to be better than this. But we will rally around him. He's been somebody who's been a part of this side for many many years. He's done well for many many years. He can turn this around," said Badani.

Even captain Axar Patel said that he "missed his partner" in a reference to Kuldeep. PTI

Where's the home advantage?

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The scores of over 220 seem inevitable in this IPL. Much of it has to do with the kinds of surfaces that are being produced. While the fans and experts are consumed by the madding frequency of these gigantic scores, there are concerns in a section of the franchises which feel that the idea of home advantage is almost non-existent now.

It's because of the stringent measures taken by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) to keep franchises away from interfering in the preparation of the pitches. On Tuesday night, Delhi Capitals coach Hemang Badani talked about the unpredictability of the surface at the Feroze shah Kotla where they have lost four of their five matches this season.

"As much as one would like to think that we are in control of the surface that we want to play on, there is a clear mandate from the BCCI that they look after the surfaces and they are the ones who ensure that there's no local side that gets benefit out of the surfaces. So you play what is presented to you. It's been a bit of an up-and-down curve for us to understand what we are going to get at Delhi, which is our home," Badani said after their loss to Chennai Super Kings.

"There has been a game where we scored 75. In one game 265 was chased down. Again, this was a surface which spun. Ideally, you want to have some consistency. It's not about us. I think the whole competition is quite neutral that way," he added.

BCCI RECOMMENDATIONS FAVOUR HIGH-SCORING GAMES

TOI understands that the recommendations shared by the board suggest that there should be minimal help for bowlers. BCCI has adopted its policy from domestic cricket and implemented it in IPL where one curator from the board will be at the venue with the local curator to see there isn't much interference. During the IPL playoffs and final, the board's central team of curators will completely take over the venues.

The recommendations suggest boundaries no longer than 77 metres and pitches can offer little lateral movement and no excessive spin. Pitches must have uniform grass cover which will rule out dry pitches.

"There are few teams who have stronger spin-bowling attack. They would prefer a little slower and sluggish pitches. Some teams have very potent seam attack and they prefer a little more help for the new-ball bowlers. But now every pitch is almost similar. It doesn't matter if one team is travelling or not. The players expect similar conditions across all venues," a franchise member close to the development told TOI.

Another franchise member said it is the reason why there have been embarrassing collapses whenever there has been a little bit of help for the bowlers. "The batters go in with the expectation that pitch will play true and flat. But whenever there's a little more purchase from the pitch for the bowlers, they struggle to adapt," said a franchise source.

Now that the tournament is nearing its business end and the summer heat taking over, the pitches are going to tire out and the scores are expected to come down considerably. It will be interesting to see if the franchises and the BCCI can find a middle path and let theie be some home advantage.

No relation between MLA passes and shifting of the final: DCM

▶ Continued from page 1

The final, according to norms, is hosted at the venue of the defending champions, in this case, Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Incidentally, the last three of the four IPL finals have been hosted in Ahmedabad, with the Gujarat Titans featuring only once (2022). The New Chandigarh Stadium in Mullanpur will host the Eliminator and a Qualifier, with the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala chosen as the venue for the other Qualifier.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), while expressing disappointment at missing out on playoff matches, outlined they had communicated to the BCCI on its preparedness to host the title contest scheduled to be held on May 31.

"KSCA had addressed a detailed communication to the BCCI outlining its preparedness and explaining the operational framework under which the current IPL season was conducted in Bengaluru."

"Despite our preparedness and willingness to host the playoffs, we understand the BCCI has taken a decision to allot these matches to other venues. While the specific reasons for the same have not been formally communicated to KSCA, we fully respect the prerogative and decision-making authority of the BCCI in this regard," Vinay Mruthyunjaya, KSCA spokesperson, added. While the shift itself was expected, Bengaluru missing out on all playoff matches has raised eyebrows.

Sources claimed that one of the major reasons for Bengaluru missing out on the prime IPL matches is the demands from the state legislators for passes

One of the major reasons cited for Bengaluru missing out on the prime IPL matches is the demands from the state legislators for passes, which are about 900 per match.

Sources indicated that demands for around 900 passes per match from state legislators, coupled with over 4,000 passes already committed to members and affiliates, made allocation difficult at the 33,000-capacity venue.

Karnataka deputy chief Minister D K Shivakumar, however, denied any link, stating the move was due to Ahmedabad's larger capacity.

"Ahmedabad has a bigger stadium and can accommodate more people. The IPL final may have been shifted with that intention. There is no relation between MLA ticket distribution and the shifting of the final," he stated.

Sunil Kumar

BAT CHECK: RCB's Romario Shepherd (left) and Devdutt Padikkal during a training session on Wednesday

Pavandeep, Krishna shine for BSC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bangalore Sports Club rode on a fine century from Pavandeep Bharadakane (128) and a four-wicket haul by Krishna (4/24) to register a 242-run win over Cambridge Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently.

Bangalore SC, who decided to bat first, put up a strong total of 356 before being bowled out in 49 overs. Pavandeep was the showstopper with the bat, with his 128 coming off just 76 balls. His innings included 22 boundaries. Pavandeep shared a crucial fifth-wicket partnership with Vineet Pravin Patil. The pair added 123 runs in 84 deliveries.

Pavandeep (right) and Krishna

KSCA U-16 INTER-CLUB

Cambridge CC struggled from the start, losing wickets in a heap. By the 11th over, they were reduced to 19/5 and failed to recover thereafter, and were bowled out for 104 in 36.1 overs. Jash Karia fought a lone battle, scoring a half-century.

Brief scores: Bangalore SC: 356 all out in 49 overs (Vaan Joshi 33, Tanishk Krishna 27, Ishaan Bohra 29, Vineet Patil 56, Pavandeep Bharadakane 128 (76b; 22x4), Saurjyesh Das 25, Vikram 35 n.o; Yashkumar Nishad 3-51, Viren Seervi 3-36, Jash Karia 3-70) **bt Cambridge CC: 104 all out in 36.1 overs** (Jash Karia 50; Krishna 4-24, Vikram 2-30, Saurjyesh Das 2-4).

National Cricketers: 225/9 in 50 overs (Joshua Batchu 104 (144b; 11x4), Yashwin Reddy 25, Gaurav Raj 33; Syed Fareez 4-33, Harshith Mettimi 2-41, Syed Hussaini 2-55) **lost to Jayanagar Cricketers: 226/5 in 45.1 overs** (Pranjal Kumar 88, Namish Kar 54 n.o, Sujoy Das 39 n.o; Surya Sendhil 2-48).

YMCA CC (3): 227 all out in 42.2 overs (Karthick Veeran 70, Sami Kadakol 27, Adithya GD 55; Vidit Mishra 3-13) **bt Wilson Garden CC: 226/9 in 50 overs** (Lohithaksha R 25, Siddharth Karumbaiah 43, Tarun Gautham 70; Manav Jain 3-46, Ishan Rao 2-31).

City Gymkhana: 210/7 in 49 overs (Arnav Manchale 43, Sachith Shetty 60 n.o; Mahesh Kantharaj 2-40, Zak Anthony 2-39, Arnav Rajiv 2-30) **bt Jawans CC: 169/9 in 49 overs** (Shaurya Yadav 45; Nandheeshwara HS 4-25, Arnav Manchale 2-22).

Palar SC, Kolar: 88 all out in 27.3 overs (Chayaank Pradeep 30; Mithun Rao 2-11, Sangeeta Sashang 2-26, Yuvraj Ng 3-11) **lost to Sapphire CC: 89/3 in 26.5 overs** (Sangeeta Sashang 31, Mokshith Bakkamanthula 33 n.o; Amogh Srinivas 2-37).

Sir Syed Cricketers: 249 all out in 49.3 overs (Purab Soni 85, Aarith Gowda 25, Dev Patel 37; Kusal Jinani 4-39) **bt Sangam CA: 247/9 in 50 overs** (BY Sidarth 39, Gautham V 89, Vivek B 36; Purab Soni 2-44).

Freelancers CC: 177 all out in 39.5 overs (Kalyan Tejas 44, Rishab Hiremath 30; R Uday 2-17, Bhuvan Gowda 3-25, Saket Chandramouli 4-30) **lost to Whirlwind Cricketers: 178/3 in 36 overs** (Rithesh M T 66, Shubhan Hiremath 45 n.o).

Friends Union CC (2): 224 all out in 38.2 overs (Neev Jain 31, Dishant Anilkumar 69, Vyom Vijay 48; Anuj Onkar 2-41, Pruthu Aathreya 4-46, Tejas Mukund 2-26) **bt Bangalore Occasionals: 182 all out in 44.1 overs** (Parupalli Siddhan 50, Anuj Onkar 34; Swarith Girigowda 3-30, Jakkula Kumar 2-20, Vyom Vijay 2-20). **Jawahar SC (1): 208 all out in 49.2 overs** (Amey 25, Mayank Sharma 56, Cheran Raju 38; James Patel 2-22, Chirayu Vishesh 2-40, Viswajeet Jadhav 5-34) **lost to RVCE: 209/5 in 41.5 overs** (Narayan Dadhwal 29, Aarush Puthran 60, Avaneesha SN 58, Lithik Reddy 34 n.o).

Jawahar SC (2): 95 all out in 30.3 overs (Arnav Dere 2-14, Kushal KA 5-20) **lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 96/1 in 10.1 overs** (Niranjan Ashok 43 n.o, Dhathvik 36 n.o).

Jupiter CA: 164 all out in 38.4 overs (Nikhil Sangam 32, Manan Narain 44; Vishrut Mehrotra 2-26, Thanav Abhishek 2-28, S Miteesh 3-24) **lost to Hammonds CC: 165/3 in 20.1 overs** (Aryaman Goel 32, Lalithesh R 47 n.o, Preetham HG 52 n.o; Sai Teja Atti 2-24).

Laxmisiri battles past Prathyusha; Kashish wins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Indian players continued to impress at the ITF W15 Tumakuru Open, putting up a dominant display in the singles Round of 32, although eighth seed Akanksha Dileep Nitture bowed out in a surprise early exit on Wednesday. Akanksha was outplayed by Arina Arifullina in a one-sided 6-1, 6-1 defeat.

An all-Indian contest set the tone for the day, with Laxmisiri Dandu mounting a fine comeback to defeat Prathyusha Rachapudi 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Kashish Bhatia brushed aside wild card Amodini Naik 6-1, 6-1, while Jennifer Luikham battled past Chevika Reddy Sama 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Among the seeded Indians, third seed Vaidehee Chaudhari lived up to expectations with a composed 6-3, 6-4 win over local talent Soha Sadiq, while fourth-seeded Zeel Desai delivered the most dominant performance of the day, steamrolling Jeetesh Kumari 6-0, 6-0.

EYE ON THE BALL: Laxmisiri Dandu

Results: (Rd of 32): Laxmisiri Dandu (Ind) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi (Ind) 1-6, 7-5, 6-3; Kashish Bhatia (Ind) bt Amodini Naik (Ind) 6-1, 6-1; 1-Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Saumya Vig (Ind) 6-1, 6-1; Jennifer Luikham (Ind) bt Chevika Reddy Sama (Ind) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 3-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind) bt Soha Sadiq (Ind) 6-3, 6-4; 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Sreemanya Reddy Anugonda (Ind) 6-0, 6-1; 6-Ekaterina Yashina bt Bela Tamhankar (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Arina Arifullina bt 8-Akanksha Dileep Nitture (Ind) 6-1, 6-1; Zuzanna Kolomus (Pol) bt Aishwarya Jadhav (Ind) 6-2, 6-0; 4-Zeel Desai (Ind) bt Jeetesh Kumari (Ind) 6-0, 6-0.

DEEP STRUCTURAL CHANGES NEEDED: PTPA

Bengaluru: The Professional Tennis Players Association said the row over French Open prize money shows precisely why it is challenging the way tennis is run, warning that without reform the sport will be stuck in cycles of disputes and incremental change.

Leading players have sought a bigger share of the pie from French Open organisers, whose prize purse of 61.7 million euros lags well behind the other three Grand Slams despite a 9.5% increase for 2026.

Aryna Sabalenka and other leading players expressed their "deep disappointment" to organisers in a statement this week and have said a boycott is possible if the gap is not closed. "We commend and sup port the players for stepping up and fighting for what they deserve: a fair share of the revenues they help create," the PTPA advocacy group said in a statement. REUTERS

SNAP SHOTS

India women lose

India's underwhelming campaign at the World Table Tennis Team Championships ended with women's 1-3 loss to USA in the round of 32 in London. Manika Batra was the only one who made an impact in the rubber, winning her singles against Reyes Jessica 11-2, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4. In the opening singles, Yashaswini Ghorpade was blanked by Moyland Sally 0-3 and Diya Chitale went down to Lily Zhang 0-3. Manika lost to Sally 12-10, 9-11, 3-11, 11-13 in her second singles.

Indian boxers confirm 27 medals: Indian boxers were assured of 27 medals at the Asian Boxing U-15 & U-17 Championships in Tashkent on Wednesday. The U-15 girls' contingent secured 14 out of 15 possible medals, while the U-15 boys nearly matched the feat by confirming 13 out of 15 medals.

Amanpreet Gill no more: Former India U-19 and Punjab medium pacer Amanpreet Singh Gill died at the age of 36 in Chandigarh on Wednesday. The cause of death is not yet known. Gill, who was Virat Kohli's U-19 teammate, featured in six first-class matches for Punjab. He was also part of the Punjab franchise (Kings XI Punjab) in the inaugural Indian Premier League season, and later served as a member of Punjab's senior selection committee.

Mishra opens up two-shot lead: On another tough scoring day, Order of Merit leader Anshul Mishra found his rhythm and range midway through the second round on Wednesday to open up a two-shot lead at the IGU Andhra Pradesh Amateur Golf Championship at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam. **Leading scores (after 36 holes): 141:** Anshul Mishra (70, 71); **143:** Deepak Yadav (70, 73); **145:** Vinamra Anand (74, 71); **146:** Shashank Sachin Gadre (72, 74); **147:** Ribhav Verma (74, 73); **148:** Jai Gupta (76, 72), Anas Khan (75, 73); **149:** Hiransh Singh (71, 78).

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TWENTY YEARS AFTER

Saka Goal Takes Arsenal Into First CL Final Since 2006

London: The last time Arsenal played in the Champions League final, Bukayo Saka was still four years away from joining the club's academy.

Now Saka, the winger who first signed for Arsenal at age 8, has put his club back onto the biggest stage.

Saka scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday to put Arsenal into its first Champions League final since 2006 — and only their second ever. No wonder he was reluctant to stop celebrating with the crowd and his teammates after the final whistle and do a TV interview on the field instead.

"You're taking me away from the celebrations, man," Saka told Amazon Prime with a laugh. "It is so beautiful. You see what it means to us and what it means to the fans. We're so happy."

The 24-year-old Saka was on hand to slot in the rebound after Leandro Trossard's shot was saved by Jan Oblak in the 45th minute to put Arsenal up 2-1 on aggregate in the second leg of the semis.

The Gunners' stingy defence did the rest. Arsenal have now kept a clean sheet at home in all three knockout rounds after conceding a competition-low four goals in winning all eight of their matches in the league phase.

It will be Arsenal's second final in Europe's premier competition, having lost the 2006 title match to Barcelona. This time it will face either defending champion Paris Saint-Germain or Bayern Munich in Budapest, Hungary, on May 30. It could prove a special season for the London cub, who are now one game away from their first European Cup title and three games away from a first Premier League crown in 22 years.

The Gunners are guaranteed the domestic league title if they win their remaining three matches,. "Now we are in the final of the Champions League and we're fighting for the Premier League," Saka said. "It's a beautiful a story and I hope it ends well in Budapest." AP

Getty Images

KEY MOMENTS

8'	Alvarez sweeps Simeone cross wide
45'	Saka pounces from close range
56'	Griezmann forces Raya save
60'	Odegaard sends curler over bar
66'	Gyokeres steers Hincapie delivery over

14 Arsenal's victory extended their unbeaten Champions League run to 14 fixtures, setting a new club record.

41 Mikel Arteta's side secured their 41st victory of the 2025/26 campaign – equalling the most wins in a season by an Arsenal team set in 1970/71.

18 The Gunners have now kept 18 clean sheets in their last 24 home European matches.

ARTETA

"IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE NIGHT. WE'VE MADE HISTORY TOGETHER." — ARSENAL MANAGER **Mikel Arteta**

"In those situations I just try and stay alive. Sometimes it bounces for you, sometimes it doesn't, but you have to be there, and I was there." — ARSENAL GOALSCORER **Bukayo Saka**

SIMEONE

"We gave absolutely everything. If we got knocked out, it's because our opponents deserved to get through." — ATLETICO COACH **Diego Simeone**

"Where this club's come from over the last few years, and what we've been building, the narrow losses, going out of cup competitions, things that hurt you as a player. We've kept building, kept adding good quality to the squad." — ARSENAL MIDFIELDER **Declan Rice**

"Football is about clinical finishing, they were more clinical than us." — ATLETICO CAPTAIN **Koke**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST HAVE HISTORY IN THEIR SIGHTS

London: Vitor Pereira has urged Nottingham Forest to set up a "fantastic" end to a rollercoaster season when they face Aston Villa on Thursday, within touching distance of the **Europa League** final.

Pereira's side will defend a 1-0 lead from the semi-final first leg as they look to reach a European final for the first time in 46 years. Not since the halcyon days of Brian Clough, who masterminded the club's European Cup triumphs in 1979 and 1980, have Forest played for a major continental trophy.

In their first European semi-final since 1983/84, Forest have a slender advantage thanks to Chris Wood's penalty at the City Ground. If Pereira's men can finish the job at Villa Park, they would face Braga or Freiburg in the final on May 20.

Yagiz opts for easy draw against Abdusattorov

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Yagiz Kaan had to play a pawn-down position in queen and pawns endgame against Andy Woodward before getting half a point with a draw after 104 moves on Tuesday. In the sixth and penultimate round on Wednesday against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, the 14-year-old from Turkey probably took a practical decision of taking a draw in just 27 moves despite being in a better position.

That half point gave Yagiz (4) a provisional lead in the TePe Sigeman & Co chess tournament in Malmo, Sweden. Abdusattorov was half a point behind but world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen caught up with Yagiz on four points.

The Norwegian was having a winning advantage against 15-year-old Woodward at the time of going to press. The result of the last-round matchup between Carlsen and Yagiz on Thursday will have a huge bearing on the tournament standings. A win against Zhu Jiner would make Arjun the sole leader and draw joint leader.

How an ACL tear inspired Guj's first gymnastics medal

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Ahmedabad: When local gymnast Diya Thakore suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus tear in Aug 2024, she had no idea when she would return to the gymnastics arena. So, she used the recovery period to learn to be a gymnastics judge.

"After a gruelling 18-month rehabilitation and strengthening programme, many doubted a return to peak form. I channelised my energy into reading books on Simone Biles and Dipa Karmakar, learnt how they remained strong during their injuries. It helped me remain mentally strong," said Diya.

It all paid off last week when Diya clinched silver in the Uneven Bars event at the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) National Championship in Bhubaneswar. It made her the first-ever woman gymnast from Gujarat to win a senior national medal. "The last year and a half was the toughest period of my life," said Diya.

GCT

'Fist pump for myself' as Gukesh cooks Sindarov

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Endgame offer. The variation in Caro Kann defence that was played on the board could not have been named more apt.

For, world champion D Gukesh 'offered' a rare glimpse of his emotion after the 'endgame' in which he cooked challenger Javokhir Sindarov's goose in the fifth round of the rapid section in the GCT Rapid & Blitz tournament in Poland on Wednesday.

Gukesh celebrated a win (worth two points in the rapid section) with a fist pump which he later described as — "for myself".

Yes, it was not a draw pact in Warsaw. That was kept for the next round as Gukesh and Wesley So found three-fold repetition after just 14 moves. Sindarov will try to dethrone Gukesh in the World title match, expected to be scheduled later this year. As such, their matchup carried an added significance. The 19-year-old, who has slipped below top-15 in world rankings, had lost horribly against Radoslav Wojtaszek in the previous round. "It's a rapid (25+10) game," Gukesh told the broadcasters. "Obviously not (as deep as classical). The match will be a different experience. But when you play a game like this, there is always something running behind."

Gukesh added that during the game he was trying to focus. "When I played against Ding (Liren) before the match in 2024, there was always something going on. (Hence) It is a nice feeling (to win). The fist pump was myself. I felt really good. And in the heat of the moment, I did something (smiles)."

PM likely to attend CWG closing

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New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the closing ceremony of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games on Aug 2, according to official sources.

With India set to host the 2030 CWG in Ahmedabad, a formal flag handover ceremony will take place during the closing event. The ceremony is expected to be attended by leaders from both nations, including Scotland's First Minister John Swinney. It's been learnt that the organisers have reserved a 20-minute segment for India, showcasing traditional dance and cultural performances. The CWG will begin on July 23.

India continues ban on ties with Pak

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has decided to continue its ban on bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan, while permitting participation of its athletes in multilateral tournaments in the country, the sports ministry said on Wednesday. The policy, which was first introduced in Aug last year, has again drawn a clear distinction between bilateral series and international competitions governed by global sporting bodies.

In a circular issued to Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and national federations (NFs), the ministry reiterated that Indian teams will neither travel to Pakistan for bilateral competitions nor host Pakistani teams for such events in India. "In so far as bilateral sports events, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the statement said.

However, the govt clarified that the restriction does not extend to multilateral competitions such as world championships or continental events. Indian athletes will continue to compete in international tournaments featuring Pakistani participants, regardless of venue. Likewise, Pakistani athletes will be allowed to compete in events hosted in India under the framework of international sports federations.

The officials emphasised adherence to the Olympic Charter's principles of inclusivity as the country prepares to host 2030 Commonwealth Games and is pursuing bids for major events like 2036 Olympics and 2038 Asian Games.

"To position India as a preferred destination for hosting international sporting events, the visa process for sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers of International Sports Governing Bodies shall be simplified. In respect of office-bearers of such bodies, a multi-entry visa shall be granted on a priority basis for the duration of their official tenure, subject to a maximum period of five years," the statement added.

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Bukayo Saka's finish on the stroke of half-time helped Arsenal reach Champions League final for the first time since 2006 following a tense evening in north London

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GRAND CHESS TOUR: REIGNING WORLD CHAMP GUKESH BEATS HIS CHALLENGER FOR WORLD CROWN, JAVOKHIR SINDAROV OF UZBEKISTAN, IN SUPER RAPID & BLITZ 16

Short paper, long odds: Iran peace hinges on 1-pg memo

Tehran Wants 'Fair Deal' In 14-Point MoU

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The United States and Iran are edging closer to a diplomatic breakthrough, with both sides working to finalise a one-page memorandum that could open the door to longer-term negotiations and end the three-month-long global ordeal.

Senior US officials told Axios a draft document — a 14-point MoU — is now closer to finalisation than at any point since hostilities began in late Feb, following a flurry of back-channel contacts and mediated exchanges over the past 12 hours.

Leaks about the one-page memo have come from only Washington, with Iran remaining circumspect about it. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran — which appears to hold the diplomatic upper hand despite being militarily pulverised — is holding out for a "fair and comprehensive agreement", without directly confirming acceptance of the draft memo.

The proposed memo, seemingly an initiative from the US — whose president Donald Trump is trying to extricate himself from a war he expected to be short, swift and easy — is reported to be deliberately thin, a framework rather than a full treaty. But its elements are far-reaching.

At its core is a mutual de-escalation deal: While the US would roll back economic and military pressure, lift sanctions, unfreeze Iranian assets and end its blockade, Iran would accept significant curbs on its nuclear programme.

▶Continued on P 14

TALK OF DEAL LIFTS SENSEX, RUPEE

- Days before Xi-Trump meeting, **China's foreign minister** Wang Yi meets Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, **calls for swift reopening of Strait of Hormuz 'as soon as possible'**
- Possibility of US, Iran inching closer to deal pulls down crude prices sharply, boosts rupee against $, lifts Sensex 941pts; **global markets later turn jittery after Trump's renewed threat**
- An **email permitting transit will be a pre-condition for ships** to pass through Strait of Hormuz, reports Iran's state-run Press TV

Photo : Reuters

Smoke rises following an Israeli strike in southern Lebanon's Yohmor village on Wednesday

'Massive hit to US infra in Iran strikes'

Iranian airstrikes have damaged or destroyed at least 228 structures or pieces of equipment at US military sites across West Asia since the conflict began, hitting hangars, barracks, fuel depots, aircraft and key radar, communications and air defence equipment, as per a Washington Post analysis of satellite imagery. The destruction is far larger than what has been acknowledged by the US govt or previously reported. P 14

K'taka will deploy AI to evaluate class tests

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Bengaluru: In a major push toward modernising classrooms, the school education department is set to introduce AI-powered evaluation for lesson-based assessments (LBAs) or class tests for students in Classes 8 to 12 starting next academic year.

Developed in collaboration with IIT-Dharwad, the initiative aims to ease one of teachers' most time-consuming tasks: correcting answer scripts and entering marks. LBAs, typically pen-and-paper tests conducted after every chapter, will now be assessed through an AI-driven platform.

Under the new system, teachers will scan or take photos of students' answer sheets and upload them to the platform. The AI model will evaluate the responses, assign marks, and automatically update the database.

Teachers, however, will still oversee evaluation to ensure accuracy. The platform, being trained to comprehend handwriting and compute marks, will also use question banks to set papers.

▶Data entry work, P 3

SAVES TIME

- Platform being built **in collaboration with IIT-Dharwad** automates time-consuming tasks like correcting answer sheets, entering marks
- Teachers will **upload answer sheets; AI evaluates them, assigns marks,** and updates database
- Platform will use question banks **to help teachers set question paper**

IPL final in Ahd; no big matches in B'luru

BCCI Secy: B'luru Originally Designated To Host IPL Final

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Bengaluru: BCCI Wednesday shifted the Indian Premier League final from the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The last three of the four IPL finals have been hosted in Ahmedabad. Chennai hosted it in 2024.

"Bengaluru was originally designated to host the Final," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement. "However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and reassigned," he said. Unlike the league matches which are hosted by the respective franchises, the final four matches are the responsibility of BCCI.

While the decision to shift the final is on expected lines, what stands out is Bengaluru not being compensated with either the Qualifiers or the Eliminator.

▶No relation, P 15

NO PLAYOFFS IN CITY

- The **New Chandigarh Stadium in Mullanpur** will host the Eliminator & a Qualifier
- The **HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala** is venue for the other Qualifier
- Sources claim **a key reason Bengaluru lost out on hosting playoffs** is legislators' unreasonable demand for passes—900 per match

Visit to gay dating app proves costly

After a 22-year-old man went to meet a match in Manesar, got kidnapped and was forced to transfer money, police said they will issue notice to Grindr, a dating app for bisexual men. P 7

Swasth Bharat for all govt health apps

Centre on Tuesday launched Swasth Bharat Portal, a single platform to integrate multiple govt health programmes, reduce duplication and improve efficiency. It could reduce infrastructure load by 20–30%. TNN

41% of NEET aspirants from just four states

National Testing Agency data shows that UP, Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra together accounted for 9.4 lakh candidates, or 41.4% of total 22.7 lakh candidates for NEET. P 6

Ramaswamy wins GOP primary, on track to become Ohio governor

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Indian-American tech entrepreneur-turned-politician Vivek Ramaswamy powered to a decisive victory in Ohio's Republican gubernatorial primary Tuesday, cementing his transformation from presidential hopeful to a rising force within a Republican Party increasingly shaped by loyalty to President Donald Trump.

Ramaswamy's easy win sets up a Nov contest against Democrat Amy Acton, a physician who became a prominent public figure during the state's response to the pandemic. But the broader significance of the result lies less in the general election matchup and more in what it signals about the ideological trajectory of the Republican Party.

A first-generation Indian-American and biotech entrepreneur, Ramaswamy first gained national attention with a book railing against "wokeness" in corporate America before launching an unlikely bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024.

▶Of Indian origin, P 14

AP

Ramaswamy kisses his wife Apoorva during a watch party in Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday

Eight weeks into politics, Nitish's son may join Bihar cabinet today

Jai Narain Pandey & Manoj Chaurasia | TNN

Patna: Nishant Kumar, son of JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar, is tipped to join the Bihar govt in CM Samrat Choudhary's first cabinet expansion Thursday, eight weeks after his entry into politics as the reluctant heir to his father's decades-long legacy.

News of Nishant transitioning from political rookie to minister-in-waiting came in the wake of JD(U)'s insistence on parity with BJP in the expanded cabinet. State JD(U) president Umesh Singh Kushwaha laid claim Wednesday to 16 berths for his party, double the number of ministers from his party in the previous Nitish-led govt.

▶Hailed as new era, P 10

7 encounters in 24 hrs in UP dist; 9 shot, 10 held

Nine accused were shot in the legs, and 10 were arrested during seven police encounters across UP's Muzaffarnagar district within 24 hours as part of a crackdown on those charged with robbery, dacoity, attempt to murder, and offences under Gangster Act, **reports Mohammad Dilshad.** The operations took place in New Mandi, Mansoorpur, Budhana and Kotwali Nagar areas, and included arrests of two wanted accused. SSP Sanjay Kumar Verma said the arrested accused were involved in several criminal cases registered at police stations in Muzaffarnagar and Punjab. P 9

Mysuru city corpn sleuths hold a mirror to those peeing in public

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Mysuru: The Mother Teresa Road in front of Mysuru KSRTC suburban bus stand has been what officials call a 'yellow spot' — a place repeatedly used for urinating in public — for the past 30 years.

In an overnight move, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) changed the fate of the stretch — on Tuesday, it installed mirror-like stainless steel sheets at the chronic nuisance spot that reeks of urine. Within 24 hours, officials say, there has been a 90% drop in travellers rushing to the spot to relieve themselves. The last-ditch move from MCC comes after several 'clean city' campaigns yielding no result.

The 10-ft open drain along the road had turned into an eyesore and a hygiene concern for the city corporation trying to stop public from urinating here. Earlier, it tried to install railings along the drain, but to no avail. Worse, the open drain became a dumping ground. The Mysuru initiative echoes a similar experiment carried out in Bengaluru on Church Street in 2020.

▶A deterrent, P 3

IT'S TIME TO REFLECT

- An official says **the reflective surface appears to have created** a "psychological deterrent"
- MCC **has spent Rs 9L on the project,** including for civil works
- MCC is **planning to improve illumination** in the area
- Officials **to study if the same model could be extended** to other 'yellow spots'

Pic: SR Madhusudhan

NOT HERE, PLEASE: The 85-metre-long, 5-foot reflective panels that are already dissuading those who pee on Mother Teresa Road, Mysuru

9 of 80 TMC MLAs give Didi's 1st post-election meet a miss

Mamata Claims Poll Sabotage By Party Netas

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At the meeting held at her south Kolkata residence, Mamata Banerjee said TMC had 'substantial evidence' to challenge the poll result in court

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee accused functionaries within her party of "sabotage" in the recent assembly elections and announced multiple probes Wednesday, striking a defiant note as TMC grappled with a crushing defeat to BJP after 15 years in office.

Seventy-one of 80 newly elected MLAs attended a meeting at her Kalighat residence in south Kolkata, where she warned that dissent against the party or its brass would invite action. "Some of our own people have sabotaged us. We will examine all such allegations," a TMC senior quoted her as saying.

A disciplinary committee comprising TMC seniors Derek O'Brien, Firhad Hakim, Chandrima Bhattacharya and Asima Patra will probe complaints, alongside three fact-finding teams to visit unrest-hit districts.

Banerjee hardened her stand on the poll outcome. "We respect people's mandate. But I will not resign. This is our way of protest against the election process... Let them dismiss me. I want this to be a black day," she said, asking MLAs to wear black on the first day of the assembly.

The party moved to rein in mixed messaging after some MPs posted on X acknowledging the verdict. Actor-MP Dev congratulated BJP, calling it the "people's mandate", while Shatrughan Sinha questioned the EC's role. The party clarified that such remarks were personal views.

Banerjee said the election was "rigged" and said TMC had "substantial evidence" to challenge the result in court, "including international forums, if required". She also referred to abuse at a counting centre on result day.

She cited narrow margins to buttress her claim. "The vote-share difference is only 30 lakh. It's almost the same number they deleted under (SIR) adjudication and discrepancies. On top of that, 7 lakh names were added online," she said. The meeting was attended by TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and state president Subrata Bakshi. MLAs were asked to give Abhishek a standing ovation for his campaign role. Banerjee also indicated she may resume legal practice, with senior politicians expected to follow.

Several MLAs skipped the meeting after informing the party, many citing efforts to control post-poll violence in their constituencies. Some MLAs from north Bengal were asked to stay back.

Banerjee accused rivals of vandalising a Lenin statue in Murshidabad and damaging "1,500 TMC offices" statewide. "We never vandalised Lenin's statue. But they did. Stay on the ground and help people." She urged functionaries to mark Rabindra Jayanti on May 9 with cultural programmes — the day the new CM is set to take oath.

Clashes, firing, vandalism rock West Bengal, BJP calls for calm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Subhojyoti Kanjilal

A demolished structure near New Market on Wednesday

Kolkata: Post-election flare-ups across Bengal triggered clashes, firing and vandalism from Kolkata to its northern fringes, prompting BJP brass to call for restraint and direct its cadre to restore calm on the ground.

The most serious confrontation came from Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district, roughly 75km northeast of Kolkata, where a clash between Trinamool and BJP supporters over control of a bheri (fish pond) left three policemen and two CRPF personnel wounded by gunfire. Police said armed groups converged near the fishery around 10.30pm Tuesday. Officers and central forces responding to a tip-off were caught in crossfire. The region, once a Trinamool stronghold, saw BJP's Sanat Sardar win the seat in the assembly polls.

Tension gripped Topsia-Tiljala in east Kolkata after allegations that miscreants abused and assaulted local women led to a two-and-a-half-hour standoff late Tuesday. Kolkata police commissioner Ajay Nand said two cases were registered, 40 accused were arrested and additional forces deployed.

Elsewhere in the city, a statue of former Trinamool functionary Sadhan Pande was vandalised in Maniktala. In neighbouring Howrah, a Trinamool functionary and Mohun Bagan Club official was allegedly assaulted. BJP rejected allegations in both cases. The BJP brass in New Delhi issued instructions to all its candidates — winners and losers — to return to their constituencies and prevent violence. The party also moved to purge recent defectors accused of importing Trinamool-style strong-arm tactics. "There are some neo-BJPs who have just joined from Trinamool. They will be thrown out. We will not allow that culture to tarnish BJP," state president Samik Bhattacharya sai.

Senior BJP politicians held meetings with state police brass in Kolkata, seeking strict action against offenders. On the ground, several BJP MLAs attempted damage control. In north Kolkata's Baranagar, Sajal Ghosh intervened after a Trinamool office was vandalised. In Nandigram, BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari warned party workers against taking the law into their own hands. "If our members do that, what difference will remain between BJP and Trinamool?" he said.

Arrest those indulging in violence: CEC

New Delhi: CEC Gyanesh Kumar Wednesday directed authorities to immediately arrest those involved in post-poll violence in West Bengal after two deaths and widespread vandalism raised concerns about law and order in the state.

Officials said the CEC also instructed the state's top administrative and police officers to take urgent measures to restore normalcy. They added DMs and SPs were directed to ensure continuous patrolling in sensitive areas. "Instructions have been issued to the Bengal chief secretary, DGP, Kolkata police commissioner and directors general of central armed police forces, along with all DMs, SPs and other officials, to maintain continuous patrolling in sensitive areas," an EC official said, quoting the CEC. "People responsible for inciting violence and vandalism must be arrested immediately."

"Police and district authorities are maintaining strict vigil in all districts in coordination with the central forces," the official said. As per EC's deployment plan, 700 companies of CAPF will remain deployed in sensitive areas. TNN

Bike-borne hoodlums spread panic in Kol minority pockets

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Kolkata: Life in minority pockets across Kolkata has changed overnight after the election results. With bike-borne hoodlums riding through Muslim neighbourhoods chanting 'Jai Shri Ram', a sense of fear and unease has gripped residents.

In the south Tangra neighbourhood, the situation turned volatile on Tuesday night when a mob chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' attacked a TMC office and targeted bikes and houses of minority community members. As TMC workers converged in huge numbers, the situation threatened to spiral out of hand. MLA Javed Khan arrived in the nick of time and controlled the situation.

A dhaba owner, whose outlet drew motorists at night for tea, dialled some Muslim customers and urged them to avoid coming for some time in view of the prevailing tension. An advisory circulated in WhatsApp groups cautioned members to avoid arguments and stay away from crowded gatherings. Shafkat Alam, who operates an NGO in the Topsia-Tiljala belt, said two Muslim toughs switched from TMC to BJP a day after the results and led bike gangs into minority-dominated localities shouting 'Jai Shri Ram'.

In north Kolkata's Belgachhia, Muslim youths, including delivery executives, have stopped venturing into Paikpara after dark following the thrashing of a person on the result day.

Cautious New Market hawkers return

Hundreds of stalls lining pavements around New Market — the centre of Kolkata's shopping scene — sprang back to life after two days of anxiety and silence, as hawkers returned following Tuesday's bulldozer run, reports **Saikat Ray.**

The change of guard in state had triggered uncertainty across the belt, where livelihoods often depend as much on political protection as on customer footfall. Sight of payloaders and civic machinery moving through the area Tuesday deepened fears a crackdown was imminent. Hawkers said they were grateful to be back on the pavements, yet unsure how long the reprieve would last. A payloader became the centre of a political storm after it was allegedly used to demolish a TMC-affiliated hawker union office during a BJP victory rally Tuesday.

Kol cops crack the whip after bulldozer run

Kolkata: Bulldozers will not be allowed in victory processions and political rallies, Bengal DGP SN Gupta and Kolkata police commissioner Ajay Nand said Wednesday, after CEC Gyanesh Kumar directed authorities to arrest those involved in post-poll violence following two deaths and reports of widespread vandalism.

If any cop is found to have "not acted enough" to stop illegal demolitions despite being present, action will follow, Nand said, referring to demolitions of structures in the city's New Market area using a bulldozer Tuesday night. "From now, prior permission is required for holding victory processions." The city top cop also asked citizens not to believe in hearsay or fake news. Gupta said 200 FIRs had been filed post-election, leading to arrest

Modi & Shah to keep Bengal date, attend state's first BJP CM's Brigade oath on Sat

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KISSA KURSI KA: A decorator at Brigade Parade Ground with chairs for Saturday's event

Kolkata: PM Modi will return to Kolkata, as promised, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected BJP govt at Brigade Parade Ground at 10 am on May 9, Rabindra Jayanti. Accompanying the PM on stage will be home minister Amit Shah, BJP national president Nitin Nabin and the chief ministers of all NDA-governed states.

Shah is scheduled to arrive in Kolkata on Friday to attend a meeting of BJP legislators at 4 pm and pick the new chief minister. Suvendu Adhikari, who has now defeated Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee twice at the hustings, is the frontrunner among the probables. A tribal MLA from north Bengal and a "bhadralok" MLA from the urban pockets of south Bengal are being considered for the deputy CM's post. The last time Bengal had a deputy CM was in 2000, when Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was made one under the then CM, Jyoti Basu.

On Wednesday, preparations for the swearing-in ceremony began at the Brigade Parade Ground, with senior officers reviewing the ground layout. State BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya reached state secretariat Nabanna to discuss the details with the chief secretary and home secretary.

"Shah will meet BJP MLAs on May 8. The leader of the legislature party will be announced there," Bhattacharya said. Party seniors said the meeting is likely to be held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre. "We want to accommodate as many veteran workers as possible and we will look to have the right mix of experienced and new candidates," said a BJP senior in New Delhi. Bhattacharya added the state secretariat will eventually shift back to Writers' Buildings. "We had promised this in 2021." Sources said a large number of party seniors, celebrities and Padma awardees would be invited to the swearing-in.

'The Bengal Files' to hit screens in state

Vivek Agnihotri's 'The Bengal Files' will be released in the state this Friday, reports **Priyanka Dasgupta.** Agnihotri posted on X shortly after BJP's assembly election victory about how his film, 'The Kashmir Files', was taken out of cinema halls in the state. He also alleged Mamata Banerjee banned 'The Bengal Files'. "Our trailer launch was blocked. We were attacked and assaulted. Dozens of FIRs were filed against me... During these elections, we ensured the film was somehow shown to as many people as possible across Bengal." Distributor Satadeep Saha, "Not just Kolkata, we are working on a list of theatres across Bengal."